

Bi Women

The Newsletter of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network

Mark your calendar now!



Friday,
April 23

BiNet USA
Annual Meeting



Saturday,
April 24

National
Conference on
Bisexuality



Sunday,
April 25

March on
Washington for
Lesbian, Gay
and Bi Equal
Rights and
Liberation

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Printed on
recycled paper

Bisexuals Included in the March on Washington

by Laura M. Perez and Victor Raymond

We're here, we're queer, get used to it — as we claim our place as bisexuals in the gay and lesbian movement. **The 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation on April 25** will prove to be an historic/herstoric event not only in bringing over one million people to this nation's capitol (to be the largest civil rights march ever) but also in being the first national queer march in the U.S. to include **BISEXUALS** in its title. This march is the opportunity that cannot be missed for any and all bisexuals because it will not pass us by again anytime soon.

The March on Washington will be a snapshot of the state of queer liberation. Part of that

March continues on page 6

Turn to pages 6 and 11 for more on the March on Washington!

Hate Calls on the Increase

As the bisexual movement becomes more visible not only are we seeing the positive effects — an increase in folks coming out, bisexuals joining/forming bisexual or les/bi/gay groups, bisexuals and bisexuality challenging traditional notions of sexuality, gender and relationships — we also are seeing the negative effects — an increase of hate crimes directed toward bisexual people. Several of us have noticed a correlation between increased print and media coverage and the number of

Hate Calls continues on page 4

The Name Change Game (And the Fate of Gay Community News)

By Lucy Friedland

In reading the coverage in Bi Women of the name change dramas over the past few years, I vowed never to get embroiled in one. I'm talking about the campaigns of various women in BBWN to change the names or bylaws of lesbian and gay organizations to include the word "bisexual." Some of the higher profile efforts have been the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Speakers' Bureau of Boston, the Cambridge Lavender Alliance, Am Tikvah (the Jewish les/bi/gay group), the Northampton Pride March and last, but not least, the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation (April '93).

Most of these campaigns have been successful, but I personally never wanted to get involved in this type of politicking. Changing names of groups seemed to me to address a symptom of a problem, not its cause, namely biphobia. I believed that lesbian and gay exclusivist groups would only include a bisexual agenda once bi's started coming out in droves and contributed to lesbian and gay liberation. Then, organically, the names would change. More bi's had to start paying their dues before we could ask for our name up in lights.

Until GCN.

With GCN, I'm playing the name change game. Gay Community News (GCN) is a national, progressive lesbian and gay newspaper that, after almost 20 years, suspended publication in July of '92. The paper's financing, format and operations are being restructured by a large group of volunteers and a small transitional staff. The plan is to launch a new, healthier GCN by about March of '93.

GCN continues on page 10

BBWN News

Honor Roll

Diane S.
Laura P.
Ann G.
Kathrine A.
[REDACTED]

Stephanie B.
Gail Z.
Claire M.
Lori P.
Susan R.
Laura S.
Robyn O.
Jayne S.
Kathy H.
Susan S.

BiWomen is published bi-monthly.

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Marcia Deihl
Robyn Ochs
Kathleen Hepburn
Laura Sachs
Stephanie Berger
[REDACTED]

Ann Goglia
Lucy Friedland
Kathrine Anderson
Patrice Porras
Liz Nania



The Boston Bisexual Women's Network is a feminist, not-for-profit collective organization whose purpose is to bring women together for support and validation. It is meant to be a safe environment in which women of all sexual self-identities, class backgrounds, racial, ethnic and religious groups, ages, abilities and disabilities are welcome. Through the vehicles of discussion, support, education, outreach, political action and social groups related to bisexuality, we are committed to the goals of full acceptance as bisexuals within the gay and lesbian community, and to full acceptance of bisexuality and the liberation of all gay people within the larger society.

BBWN Planning Meeting — December 16, 1993

Notes submitted by Lucy Friedland

Present

Jane F. (facilitator), Ann G., Lori P.,
Stephanie B., Laura P., Robyn O., Lucy F.

Minutes

We discussed the community-wide bi town meeting coming up on Feb. 27th. We proposed that ECBN should front the money for the event, and that any costs not covered by passing the hat at the meeting should be split in thirds between ECBN, BBWN and Biversity.

The ECBN office has been receiving a number of abusive or sexually harassing phone calls on the BIS-MOVE number. On January 12 we will have a phone harassment prevention strategy meeting with phone volunteers to address the problem.

Stephanie proposed having a BBWN sponsored workshop on street safety and other safety issues for bi women. We scheduled it for March 24.

Volunteers have been doing a great job in the tasks associated with the care and feeding of BBWN. Some vacancies were identified. Jane will help Laura with picking up the mail. Lori and [REDACTED] will help with office tasks once a week. Rebecca is to place listings of BBWN events in publications.

Organizing of BBWN's 10th Anniversary bash was tabled until the next meeting.

Newly Scheduled Events

Thurs. Feb. 11: Next BBWN Planning Meeting, 7 pm ECBN office.

Sun. Feb. 14: BBWN Valentine's Day Brunch, 12 noon at Jayne's.

Sat. Feb. 27: Community-wide, greater-Boston, Bi Town Meeting, 1 - 5 pm [location not determined as of 12/16]

Sat. Mar. 6: BBWN brunch at Kathrine's, 12 noon, call 338-9595 for location.

Mon. Mar. 15: BBWN volunteer night, non-newsletter stuff, 7 pm ECBN office.

Weds. Mar. 24: Bi Women's Safer Street Workshop, sponsored by BBWN, at the Bi Office.

Mon. Mar. 29: BBWN volunteer night, newsletter stuff, 7 pm ECBN office.

Weds. April 14: BBWN Planning Meeting, 7 pm ECBN office. ▽

The new phone number for the Bi Office: (617) 338-9595



Important Bi Community Meeting Planned

The First Annual Bisexual Community Meeting will be held February 27, Saturday, from 1pm to 4pm. A location has not been secured as of press time, so please call the Bi Office at (617) 338-9595.

The purpose of this Boston region-wide meeting is to develop better communication between bisexual groups and individuals through information sharing, as part of the longer term goal of meeting the needs of bisexuals and bisexual groups in the region.

Everyone is welcome. Come to learn, share, meet new people, get energized, activated and empowered — or just come to listen.

Lots o' bisexual paraphernalia will be on sale.

Wheel chair accessible, ASL interpreting and child care provided.

If you need ASL or child care please call ahead: (617) 338-9595. ▽



**DEADLINE for the April/May issue:
Friday, March 12, 1992**

All submissions in writing, please, and include a name and phone number if possible. If you do not want your name published, please tell us! Otherwise we may assume that you do not mind being listed as a contributor. You may contribute anonymously, or just use your first name if you wish. Send articles, calendar entries, letters, art, news and views to:

BiWomen, BBWN
P.O. Box 639
Cambridge, MA 02140

Letters

Hello,

I am a Brazilian student in Memphis — I came

out as a lesbian at 17, even though I knew I was bisexual. It seemed easier for my parents to understand that instead of a duality. Only in the last six months have I started seriously analyzing the role of bisexuality in my life, and the prejudices. It was shocking to hear my ex-girlfriend, after five years of shared life, tell me I had no business being the president of the gay and lesbian group on campus...because I was not "really gay!"

I am dating a very understanding woman right now, who is my only support system — as a bisexual I feel alone, lonely, angry, and frustrated — in serious need to know there are other people out there going through this second coming out of sorts.

Please send me any info about your group, and other resources and contacts for the mid-south (if they exist). It will be GREATLY appreciated.

Thanx,

Alessandra-Maria Zarate

I would like to establish a subscription. Enclosed is a check...

Thanks!

Kevin Moore

• • • • • • • •

Hi,

Alison Bechdel finally says the b-word in her comic strip. In a presentation she gave at MIT last year she was asked why she has not yet had a bisexual character in her strip. Her response was to say that she is often asked that question and who knows... we'll see.

This particular clipping appeared in *Outlines* (Nov. 1992).

Robyn Ochs

• • • • • • •



Dear Bi Sisters,

My name is Ginny LaCrow and some of you know me quite well and some of you have never heard of me. I have been reflecting on my relationship with BBWN since 1985 and have decided to voice some thoughts, concerns and opinions about BBWN and the direction of "our community." I will start however, with the things that I have loved and appreciated about BBWN and the women who have kept the organization alive.

1. BBWN grew out of an organic pea pod group of feminist bisexual women who recognized and acted on the need for a bi positive space for women to find support for their lifestyles. Thank you sisters.

2. From this small group an organization was founded, along with a newsletter, that has contributed enormously to the "movement within a movement;" broadened the general definition of sexuality, giving voice and visibility to hundreds of bisexuals within the ranks of the gay/lesbian liberation movement; and opened up the either/or debate on sexual identity. Thank you.

3. Thank you for the thousands of activities that have grown and developed from this organization including the newsletter, rap groups, social events, retreats, conferences (local/national/international), articles in newspapers/magazines/scholarly papers, research and books, interviews on radio and tv, political action groups, getting the "b" word included in print, AIDS Action, the Speakers Bureau, courses, ECBN, etc....WOW! Thank you.

4. I have, as a bisexual woman, been personally supported and enriched by the

Support Group for Married Women Forming In Cranston, R.I. Area

An informal, discreet support group for lesbian and bisexual women married to men. We could talk about anything from rearing children to what it's like being married and gay. You may also bring your children. For more information, write to BBWN at P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140.

Letters continue on next page

Phoenix Bi Group Forming



Equal Opportunity Lovers of Arizona (EOLA) is a Valley based support and social network for bisexuals. Membership is open to anyone 18 or older who is bisexual or supportive of bisexuality.

For more information, write: EOLA, c/o Bob Perry, 820 E. Maryland #2, Phoenix, AZ 85014; or call (602) 266-1743.

Tiffany Club

Phone: (617) 899-3230

On December 1st 1992, the Tiffany Club of New England went on-line with a gender related bulletin board service. This board has been designed to provide information, support and education for transgendered people.

German Network



In August a bisexual network was begun in Germany with the aims of: networking existing bi-groups in Germany and starting new ones; serving as an information pool on bisexuality; holding national meetings and conferences; and bi publicity and visibility.

Bi-groups are active in the following cities: Berlin, Bonn, Bremen, Dortmund, Düsseldorf, Essen, Freiburg, Hagen, Hamburg, Cologne, Magdeburg, Munich, Potsdam, Recklinghausen, and Wuppertal.

You may contact any of the local groups via the network:

BINE — Bisexualles Netzwerk e.V.
Postfach 1134
0-1136 Berlin
(No phone number yet)

Hate Calls, from page 1

hate calls we received during that period. And since we're not going away, unfortunately, we can only assume the calls won't either.

As many of you may know there have been a series of talk show personalities doing shows on bisexuality. After the Jane Whitney show (which showcased several local bi's - Laura Perez, [REDACTED] Rebecca Kaplan and Robyn Ochs, with many local rowdy bi's in the audience) which broadcasted the Bisexual Community Center phone number, we've gotten a significant amount of call from folks all over the country looking for bisexual resources. We've also received a significant number of hate and obscene phone calls. Last year the BIS-MOVE number received an 2 or 3 of these calls. For the past 5 or 6 months we've been receiving roughly 2-4 obscene/hate calls a month from both men and women.

I've been in contact with Fenway's Victim Recovery Program about what we can do to stop these calls. We're still working with the Fenway to determine a strategy that will work. We're investigating getting the police involved and putting a trap on the Community Center's phone number. This would allow the Hate Crimes Investigation Unit to track the phone numbers of hate callers ONLY. They will not have access to anyone else's phone number who calls. Our policy of confidentiality remains firm. The list of calls made to the phone is destroyed on very short intervals, limiting our, or anyone else's, access to that information. My understanding is that once we determine the day and exact time a call was made, the Hate Crimes Investigation Unit can then pull that number from the file the trap has compiled. We're still investigating this, and we'll let folks know what happens in the next newsletter.

The Victim Recovery Program gave us a few suggestions for dealing with callers when we get them in person. So far, all the hate calls were received by our answering machine. I think the following is good advice for everyone: 1. Hang up (unless a caller keeps calling back); 2. Say into the phone, "Operator this is the call-start tracing the call now", usually they hang up. If they don't, wait 30 seconds and say, "Thank you operator" and hang up; 3. Listen to the call, and then say you are notifying the police. They don't suggest trying to reason with the caller. If you're receiving messages on your answering machine, save the tape for voice identification.

No one deserves to be harassed for any reason. I strongly recommend you call the Victim Recovery Program if you're experiencing harassment because you are Bisexual. Their phone number is (617) 267-0900 ext 311. They are a very good source of information and legal advice. They will assist you in

getting the police to investigate and prosecute, if necessary. In addition, they compile statistics regarding hate crimes directed at gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. This information is used to get hate crimes laws passed. These statistics demonstrate to local and state officials that we DO need services and possible police intervention and that these kinds of hate crimes DO really happen.

- Stephanie Berger



Letters, from preceding page

women and men who have helped in building a "bisexual community," through our sharing and caring and supporting one another in the ongoing work of the community. Thank you.

5. It is clear that this group and all of our sister and brother groups around the globe have forever changed the way people think about sexuality and reshaped the debates in the personal, political and social arenas. I am thankful and proud to have been involved.

Our organization is still predominantly white, middle class, professional and somewhere between the ages of mid twenties through the late thirties. (I may be off a few years on either end.) Despite our early attempts to develop leadership trainings and focus on oppression issues, we are still blinded by the deeply ingrained oppressions we carry with us as white women. This carries over into our organization and is seen in the lack of diversity in the membership, in the small group of ongoing leaders, in the decision-making process, etc. Our ongoing debates about broadening our base of membership to be more inclusive of people of color, to include more working class women, and a wider range of ages parallels feminist movements of the past. It is very difficult, but not impossible, to be more inclusive in our outreach since we started out white and middle-class. Much work must be done. Let me describe a picture of the interrelatedness of oppressions, and give a specific example related to one of BBWN's policies to illustrate my point.

One piece of oppression theory, specific to capitalist societies, states that the backbone, the foundation of all other oppressions is classism or the access to resources available to people based on their family's wealth, property holdings, education, political power, etc. (you get the picture). We are categorized in a hierarchy of privilege according to our class background. This is achieved by manipulating us very early on into the roles of either an exploiter or an exploited and/or both,

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Letters, from preceding page

by our early conditioning specific to the class background in which we were born. Further, our Goddess-given attributes/differences like race, gender, physical appearance, place of birth, etc. are used to justify this system and further separate us through intolerance, infighting, competitiveness, and confusion about how and why there are the "haves" and "have nots." It is a complex, pervasive and confusing process that is forced upon us from birth and plays out in our interactions throughout our lives. It takes a great deal of concerted, conscious, often uncomfortable effort to make changes, on both personal and organizational levels.

Let me use the recent notice I received from BBWN to renew my membership as an example of a policy that is classist/racist. If you have one, take it out and take a look at it. There are two categories for membership; regular and sustaining. In hierarchical order under the regular membership there is: steady income, low income, and no income, pay what you can. With the "pay as you can" category at the bottom. In the sustaining membership column there is Matron Saint, Goddess and Goddess-in-Training. These are all very cutesy, feminist categories which are also classist. Why? Because the value of each woman's participation in BBWN is dependent on her ability to pay and her willingness to "buy into" the values couched in the cutesy feminist language. If you were a young, Hispanic woman say, with a part-time job, and a secret girlfriend, still living at home and you happened to pick up the latest BBWN newsletter at the Women's Center or somewhere, what would be your impressions? Would you want to jump right in, send in your money and volunteer for a job? This is just one example of the many ways we are blindly turning women away from our organization and colluding with the oppression. In addition, the recent decision to (finally) include classifieds in the newsletter also excludes those who have trouble paying the membership fees in the first place. I think both of these policies need to be re-examined.

I am working-class, single, a parent, non-monogamous, and I have been involved in social change work for the past twelve years. The focus of my work is in schools and non-profits working with teachers, parents and children on issues of prejudice, multicultural curriculum development and human liberation. I am very interested and willing to continue this dialogue and come up with a plan to address these issues in "our community." I welcome any constructive comments and/or inspired activism around these issues.

Ginny LaCrow

Domestic Partner Legislation

Chicago Considering Bereavement Leave for Partners

From the computer e-mail networks:

The Chicago City Council is considering a plan that would grant three days of paid leave to city workers to mourn the death of a "sole domestic partner" who has been living with them at least six months. Despite the Finance Committee's 8-3 vote to endorse the measure, Alderman William Beavers reportedly voiced the infamous assertion "God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve." Alderman Bernard Hansen acknowledged the measure is step toward extending other benefits to gays.

"If you choose to live as unmarried couples, whether you're heterosexual or gay or lesbian, that's your right," Hansen said. The policy, similar to one adopted in Seattle, would require city workers to make a formal declaration of a "sole domestic partner, responsible for each other's common welfare and jointly sharing the financial responsibilities." Mayor Richard Daley supports the bereavement policy, although a spokesman said the mayor wants more investigation of costs before extending benefits further.

Domestic Partners Get Some Recognition in D.C.

According to an article in a recent *IN* magazine, unmarried men and women aged 18 and over are allowed to register as domestic partners in Washington, D.C., regardless of where they live. The Health Care Benefits Expansion Act that resulted in the domestic partner legislation was overturned by Congress. However, due to pressure by gay-rights activists, the law went into effect anyway, but with the strict rule that no money can be spent by the D.C. government. This means you can register, but all you'll get is a Declaration to put up on your wall... there are no material benefits to be had.

To receive an application for a Declaration of Domestic Partnership, send \$2 and an SASE to P.O. Box 11212, Washington, D.C. 20008-0412. A person and partner must be in "a familial relationship characterized by mutual caring" and share the same residence. Partners apart for educational, health care, or work-related reasons may file. A declaration under oath before a notary public and filing by certified mail are required.

Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance (GLAA) and Gay and Lesbian Lawyers of Washington (GAYLAW) are circulating the required forms, although it was unclear from the article exactly which group is receiving the requested \$2 handling charge.

Rev. Troy Perry to Organize "Wedding" at 1993 March on Washington

The Reverend Troy D. Perry, founder of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC) has agreed to organize a second non-sectarian ceremony to formalize the union of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of lesbian, gay and bisexual relationships. The Wedding is scheduled for Saturday April 24, 1993, the day prior to the March. Additionally, the Elders of the Universal Fellowship of the Metropolitan Community Churches have voted to endorse the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights.

Source: *The Lambda Times*



Info gathered at the March on Washington meeting January 11 and posted to the computer e-mail networks (thanks, Tom and Rebecca):

1. The march needs money—look for fundraisers like potlucks and dances and such in local papers
2. Transportation: (this should be arranged as soon as possible)

BUSES: \$45-Roundtrip, leaves Boston Sat. April 24, 9pm from Boston Common (Between Park and Boylston T). Return to Boston early Monday. Purchase tickets at Crone's Harvest, 761 Center St. in Jamaica Plain (next to Dunkin Donuts) or call (617) 983-9313. (This is also the general number for march info.)

TRAIN: Amtrak-\$150 roundtrip. Leave Boston/South Station Sat. April 24 10pm, arrive Wash. D.C. Apr 25, 7:55am; leave DC April 25, 11:30pm, arrive 11am April 26. Call Capitol Travel (800) 800-9009.

PLANES: Call Capitol Travel (800) 800-9009. Something about a 5% discount on Continental or TWA. There was also talk about chartering a plane, but no specifics yet...

3. Accommodations in DC. Phone: (800) 554-2220 or (202) 289-2220. Fax: (202) 483-4436

To request community housing or donate space call (202) 628-0493

More travel and housing info on page 11!

March on Washington, from page 1

snapshot will include the bisexual community and our efforts to be recognized for our involvement in a larger struggle. While some say that it would be easier to seize the day under the guise of gay and lesbian rights, we will be marching as bisexuals, speaking out for our specific rights and freedoms along with those of our lesbian, gay and transgendered sisters, brothers and siblings. We are marching because in Colorado, bisexuals were included in the hateful language of the law, along with gays and lesbians. We may have stemmed the tide of discrimination in Oregon, but that victory needs many more like it—victories that include bisexuals along with lesbians, gays and transgender people. These statewide struggles should make it clear to all of us that—whether we're bisexual, gay, lesbian or transgendered—they will try to burn us all anyway.

From the earliest days of gay liberation, bisexuals have been involved. We may have not been out about our bisexuality, but similar situations can be found in gays and lesbians who we now value as our allies, teachers, friends and lovers. The March on Washington gives us the chance to be out, loud, and proud as bisexuals, queer bisexuals who cannot, will not and do not want to change our queer identities. As bisexuals, we do not get half-bashed or only partly discriminated against, we don't lose half our children or half our jobs. As total, whole bisexual people, we are marching to stop biphobia, homophobia and heterosexism.

Picture this: thousands of bisexuals from all over the country, all over the world, from all sorts of different communities, old and young; working-class and monetarily wealthy; African, Latina/o, Asian, indigenous and the unending rainbow of people of all colors; people with disabilities and able bodied people; people living with HIV/AIDS; monogamous and non-monogamous; celibate and promiscuous; religious and atheist; womyn, men and transgender people. It may be our struggle for sexual freedom and liberation and their inherent links to sexism, racism, classism, ableism, ageism and all other isms, that unites us. We as a queer community will come together to clearly and beautifully reflect the range of peoples of the Americas and the world.

So, if you're still asking yourself, "Why should I, a bisexual person, come to the March?" then read on and remember. You will be a part of the largest contingent of bisexuals gathered together in one place, probably ever! With such diversity you will find people with similar backgrounds, interests, and values—there is no way you will be alone. You will feel powerful because you will be making a

difference for yourself and your bisexual sisters, brothers and siblings who for whatever reasons cannot be there themselves. No time in the near future will you be able to attend three national bisexual events all in one weekend (!): an annual meeting of the national bisexual organization, BiNet (Friday, April 23), a National Conference on Bisexuality (Saturday, April 24) and a Bisexual Celebration (a dance/party Saturday night). Don't miss this one!!!

Victor Raymond is a long time bisexual activist in the Minneapolis/St. Paul community and a member of the Bisexual Connection and of the Rosebud Sioux Nation.

Laura M. Perez is New England Regional Rep. to MOW, a bisexual Latina from Boston, and a member of Boston Bisexual Women's Network and Biversity Boston.

Bi Participation at the March Encouraged

Eric Rosenthal of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) suggests the following for bisexuals who want to participate in the legislative efforts this year for the March on Washington:

1) Anyone interested in helping to organize a congressional district or state delegation for visits to Capitol Hill before the March should contact him at HRCF or Marla Stevens at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

2) Bisexuals who have suffered from discrimination and would like to testify before congress this year, please contact either of these two folks, and let BiNet USA folks know so that we can see that it is given a high priority by our Gay/Lesbian allies.

HRCF can be reached at 202-628-4160. NGLTF can be reached at 202-332-6483.

- Robyn O.

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I'm Naturally Curly

Thoughts on the March on Washington

by Patrice Porras

"Where did you get your perm? It looks sooo natural." "That's because it is natural," I sigh in response. "Oh come on, you can confide in us. Who did your hair?" I tell them god did it. Of course, they don't believe me — they think I'm hiding something (and I am). I have other "natural" aspects of myself I'm sometimes afraid to show. How can I, or anyone, prove that something is natural? Some things just have to be taken on faith. Since I moved to R.I., I feel as if the claw of the dark closet monster has grabbed my ankle and is starting to pull me down into its dungeon again.

This fear of the closet thing started when I was a kid. My family was not only dysfunctional, it was dangerous. Hide and seek consisted not of some little rule-abided-by game of popping out from under the table or from behind the couch. It meant the stuffing of the youngest child, me, into the bottom of an old 6 foot tall cedar closet that sat in the basement. Trying to breathe and stuffed under stale woolen blankets and clothes from dead relatives or forgotten donations that hung in plastic bags, I hid. Well, when mom came home from work to boil water for dinner and found three latchkey kids instead of four, she inquired. The response was always, "We don't know. We were playing hide and seek and never found her." After an unbearable amount of time and the rousing of a small measure of confidence, I would emerge from the oppressive black cavern. Scrambling my way up to the main part of the house, I'd find everyone eating dinner. Of course, who do you think got in trouble for being late for dinner? That was it. No more closets for me. I'm staying out, out, out and I'm not playing this game anymore.

The closet monster threatens me again. Sometimes I experience people here in RI attempting to stuff me into some closet. The subtle message being, "Don't come out because no one will find you and then you'll win." Sure. As a kid, I went along with that idea because if I hid properly, I'd be liked or loved or accepted so the older kids might keep playing with me. As an adult, I disdain the game and am held no longer by illusions such as being liked or being accepted.

Mainstream America would like to stuff the gay community back into the closet and keep it there. To combat this backlash our club, the general population of gay, lesbian, and bisexual people in America, has a very important meeting to attend in Washington on April 25, 1993. Club membership is not limited to people only of these sexual orientations. Many men march on both sides of the women's choice issue for abortion even though they never have to make the personal choice for themselves. In the same way, many non-gay individuals can join the club in support of same sex relationships and against discrimination based on sexual orientation (in particular by being "out" about it). Anyone can join us in supporting the civil rights of gay individuals or of the civil rights of gay marriage that would match the automatic privileges extended to opposite sex marriages. When a man and a woman marry, or formally and legally commit, in D.C. they are granted over 100 automatic legal provisions as an entity in areas of property rights, credit, housing, liability, death benefits, insurance, etc. Same sex couples earn no such recognition in their long term partnering associations and commitments. The gay and lesbian liberation movement is being fought from three different perspectives. It is a sexual freedom movement, a political movement, and an intellectual movement. This movement is for everyone regardless of whether you believe you were born the way you are or if you feel it's all been choice.

Don't let the closet monster grab us. Spread the word and encourage new members to join. Educate everyone about these inequalities. Fight for the equal marriage rights fund. With strength in numbers we can turn the tide. Statistics from 5 years ago point out that 1 in 10 Americans are other than heterosexually oriented (in general, gay). Recent statistics indicate that this number may now be as high as 1 in 8. So, the way I figure it is, we need to remind heterosexuals that if they know more than 10 people, they

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LGB Band Plays Inauguration

A Boston-based concert and marching band participated in the Inaugural Parade on Wednesday, January 20. The Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Freedom Trail Band of Boston joined over 120 musicians from across the country to perform as the Lesbian and Gay Bands of America (LGBA). This was the first time in the nation's history that an openly gay organization has been invited to participate in a national celebration.

Lesbian and Gay Bands of America was officially invited to be one of the several musical groups to provide entertainment before the Inaugural Parade. LGBA is a national organization of lesbian, gay and bisexual community bands. There are over 20 member bands, most of which march in local Gay Pride parades as well as perform in concerts throughout the year.

President-Elect Clinton reviewed the band before the parade, after which the band provided music for crowds awaiting the parade. ▼

NINA CARROLL, M.D.
OBSTETRICIAN / GYNECOLOGIST

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COLORADO OR BUST!

by Kathrine M.D. Anderson

My shrine to Colorado — the aspen wood, porcupine needles, and amazonite which I keep on a shelf — is the declaration in my Boston apartment of my love for my home state. And it is in defense of the honor of Colorado and its history that I heartily support the current boycott of the state.

Colorado hasn't gotten this much national attention since the discovery of gold in 1859, an event which drew a diverse crowd of personal dream- and freedom-seekers, as opposed to the current crisis which has sent such people fleeing the state. Stories from the Gold Rush Era tell of the drastic lack of women-folk in the very early days, and about the cowboys and the miners who danced the nights away in one another's arms. While he was visiting Colorado, during what his biographer Richard Ellman called "one of his best adventures," Oscar Wilde was asked if he didn't find the miners rough and ready. He replied, "Ready, but not rough." Such women as were present were often scandals of independence at first and heroines in the end, like the Unsinkable Molly Brown or the lesser known Baby Doe Tabor, who held on to the Matchless silver mine until her death. Hard-working women performed tasks traditionally done by men; their butch-look was incidental — the result of the lives they led. The history of Colorado is a history of blurred sexual boundaries.

Vermont Welcomes All Skiers!

Skiing members of the gay community looking for a place to ski this winter where they can be sure their rights are protected need to look no further than Vermont. Besides offering the most skiing in the eastern United States, Vermont is one of the few states in the country to have a comprehensive gay rights law (enacted in July 1992).

For more information on Vermont skiing, contact the Vermont Ski Areas Association at (802) 223-2439. For more information on Vermont's gay rights legislation, contact the Human Rights Commission at (802) 828-2480.

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Colorado was a place of compassion and tolerance. Its dry climate made central Colorado a sanctuary for victims of tuberculosis. The small one-room quarantine cottages of one of the country's largest tuberculosis sanatoriums still dot the countryside around Colorado Springs in testimony to the care given to those dying of a plague which has recently become important once again, in its relation to the AIDS epidemic.

Colorado for Family Values has its own historical roots. The state has never been free from attacks on personal freedoms. As the *Encyclopedia Britannica* attests, Carrie Nation whirled her axe in Cripple Creek and many other towns in her crusade against "tobacco, foreign foods, corsets, skirts of improper length, and paintings of the sort often found in barrooms." Colorado is also on the hit-list of current radical moralists such as the Reverend Pat Robertson and his crusade of the religious right, not unlike that of Ms. Nation.

I have heard the objection that a boycott against Colorado would injure those who have long supported gay, lesbian, and bisexual rights, and that boycotts should be waged instead against states which preserve oppressive measures such as sodomy laws. However, Amendment 2 is not a leftover law from some bigoted past, but a new and frightening legalization of discrimination, and therefore far more threatening to local supporters of gay, lesbian, and bisexual rights than any boycott. The boycott of Colorado is swift justice, in keeping with the best traditions of the state.

"The most graceful thing I ever beheld," said Oscar Wilde, "was a miner in a Colorado silver mine driving a new shaft with a hammer; at any moment he might have become noble in art forever." Colorado needs every encouragement to return to its noble tradition. ▼



Preliminary Injunction Issued Against Colorado's Amendment 2

A preliminary injunction was issued January 16 that blocked state officials from implementing Amendment 2.

"There is a fundamental right here and it is the right not to have the State endorse and give effect to private biases," said Denver District Court Judge Jeff Bayleff.

The amendment's illegality will be determined at an upcoming trial. According to legal experts, the judge's issuing of the injunction implies that it is likely that the amendment will ultimately be ruled unconstitutional. ▼

- submitted by Robyn

Curly, from page 7

know someone gay. They may not know that fact but they know the person. Tell people that if they have more than 8 or 10 family members, friends or coworkers, they have a gay person who likes them or loves them and who is afraid to emerge from the closet in order to keep that connection. Come out and march on Washington in April '93 for gay [lesbian and bi] civil rights. The march is expected to rival or surpass the volume of civil rights marches of the 60's. In 1987, a gay march achieved a turnout of 3/4 million people. This march will most likely draw over 1 million people. The important thing to realize is that for many people, like myself, a gay lifestyle is as natural as my curly hair. I am naturally curly and I am naturally bisexual. Some individuals even say they are who they are because they choose to be and some say god made them that way. So be it. Take on the gay rights and come march...

Because gay men, bisexuals and lesbians are discriminated against in housing and employment **and** because how we act is more important than who we are **and** if we get harassed it's our problem **and** if we get attacked we provoked it **and** if we raise our voices we're flaunting ourselves **and** if we enjoy sex we're perverts **and** if we have AIDS we deserve it **and** if we march with pride we are recruiting children **and** if we stand up for our rights we're overstepping our boundaries **and** because we are forced constantly to question our own worth as human beings **and** if we don't have a relationship with someone of the opposite sex we haven't given it a chance **and** if we have a relationship with someone of the same sex it is not recognized **and** because lesbian, gay, and bi history is virtually absent from the literature **and** we are told our love is not "real" **and** because homophobia is sanctioned by the court **and**

P.S. We helped elect Clinton for a reason — let's go make sure he does the job! Let's not get lulled into a false sense of security that things will be fine now — we must keep on working towards our goals and show Clinton just how large a group we are. See you there!



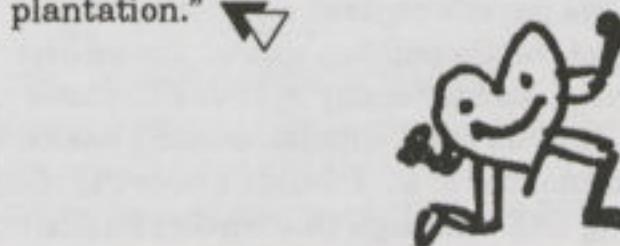
St. Louis Passes Comprehensive Gay-Rights Law

From the computer e-mail networks (thanks, Elisabeth):

Boston Sunday Globe; Dec 27, 1992 "As others do battle, St. Louis gives quiet nod to gay rights" J.L. Hazelton, Associated Press excerpts reprinted without permission.

The law bars discrimination in housing, credit, employment, education and public access on the grounds of physical or mental disability, race, religion, family status and sexual orientation. "It clearly is one of the strongest laws of the 130 we have in the US," says Robert Bray, a spokesman for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington.

Laws in many other cities and states are less comprehensive, he said. Some may protect homosexuals from housing discrimination, for example, but not job discrimination. ... The St. Louis board included a clause in the law to prevent it from being repealed by referendum, said James Wilson, the city's lawyer. Bray said that was unusual and praised the move. "Once you have granted civil rights, you can't take them away by popular vote," he said. "Women would still be in the kitchen; blacks would still be on the plantation." ▼



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Kentucky Sodomy Law Overturned

The Supreme Court of Kentucky overturned that state's anti-sodomy law on Thursday, September 24, 1992 claiming that the law violates the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and the right to privacy guaranteed in the Kentucky state constitution. The majority in a 4-3 decision wrote "...Our guarantee that all persons are entitled to 'equal' treatment forbids a special act punishing the sexual preference of homosexuals." The Kentucky court also rejected the state's reasoning that long standing tradition and the "moral indignation felt by a majority of society" is justification for applying such a law to lesbians and gay men only.

In a strongly-worded document, the Kentucky justices noted that the Kentucky state constitution guarantees greater protection for privacy from government intrusion than the U.S. Constitution. They added that, "The majority has no moral right to dictate how everyone else should live."

source: Lambda Times



Ongoing Events

(continued from page 12)

First Thursdays:
Bi Writers Group for anybody who wants support as a writer, either writing about bi issues or as a bi person who writes. Fiction, poetry, non-fiction, political essays, commentary, critique of film, video or books. 7-9pm at the Bi Office, 95 Berkeley St., Suite 613.

First and Third Thursdays:
Bisexual Issues Rap Group at the New Haven Women's Center, 614 Orange St., (corner of Bishop) New Haven, Conn. Please call to specify wheelchair access or ASL interpreting requirements. Voice (203) 776-2658, TTY and voice (203) 397-2381.

Third Thursdays:
Incest Survivors Open Discussions, 7:30-9:30pm. Free. At the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge. Info: (617) 354-8807.

Fridays:
Steppin' Out on Broadway, Country/Western and swing dances for Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Friends. 8pm dance lessons. 9pm-midnight: Texas two-step, Swing, and Line dancing. Smoke/alcohol-free, juice bar, DJ. No partner necessary. Admission \$5. At "On Broadway," in Powderhouse Square, 880 Broadway, Somerville. Info: (617) 776-4325.

(to next page)

GCN, from page 1

GCN has always represented points of view neglected by more centrist gay and lesbian papers. Many gay and lesbian publications, both national and local, cover burning "lifestyle" issues like Sandra Bernhard's latest hissy fit or cruising the sailors at the Tall Ships. GCN is the one paper that offered a bold analysis of what's really going on in the world from radical queer perspectives. For example, while other gay/lesbian media have been falling all over themselves calling for the rights of gays to serve in the military, GCN has posed the question of why gays (or anyone) would want to serve in the first place.

More than any other paper, GCN has been inclusive of marginalized groups within the gay/lesbian community (communities) — like people of color, transgender people, prisoners, prostitutes, working class, working poor and poor people, SM and leatherfolk and, yes, even bisexuals. GCN published a groundbreaking article by BBWN members Megan Morrison and Lisa Orlando way back in 1984 ("Loving Whom We Choose: Bisexuality and the Lesbian/Gay Community," 2/25/84).

Of course, we need to push GCN (and ourselves as contributors) to do more than publish an occasional article. I volunteered with GCN, initially, to help plan the printing of the paper (I work in the printing industry) and wound up on the Editorial Committee reconceiving the paper's content and layout. One meeting of the Committee was on the subject of diversity, and naturally BBWN's Rebecca Kaplan (also on the Committee) and I couldn't keep our mouths shut. I couldn't bear the idea of helping GCN through this whole revisioning process and ending up with a "progressive" paper still too bigoted to call bisexuals by name.

And so began the name change game. We demanded that the tagline and mission state-

ment of the paper be changed to include the word "bisexual." We got a mixed response from the Editorial Committee and were asked to take the "bisexual question" to the full membership to decide. The "membership" is, loosely, anyone who cares about the paper — volunteers, contributors, writers, staff, board, and anyone who regularly shows up at meetings. Rebecca and I were both uneasy with our role as the bisexual agitators when the very survival of the paper is up in the air. (GCN needs to raise a lot of money very quickly.) However, that didn't stop us from submitting position papers to the membership at the last general meeting on November 30th. The hot and heavy name change debate will take place in the next couple of months.

Even though I'm a player now, I still believe that bisexual activists spend too much of their time in the name change game. Bisexuals have lots of important work to do in both the bisexual and heterosexual worlds to chase away the BLAS (Bisexual Label Avoidance Syndrome). We need to build up our own communities, our own resources, our own publications, without looking so often to lesbians and gays for acceptance and support. We work so damn hard to make a cozy place for ourselves in the lesbian and gay community. We could be braver about taking on biphobia in heterosexual contexts. (Witness the courage of those bi's who appeared on national t.v. in Jane Whitney's Nighttalk, taking heat from a hostile audience.)

As painful as biphobia can be coming from our sisters and brothers in lesbian and gay organizations, these groups don't wield that much power in the world. Our main adversaries lie somewhere else: somewhere out there — in the hideous evil that reared its head at the Republican National Convention, and somewhere in here — on the inside, in whatever prevents so many bisexuals from calling ourselves by our true name.

What you can do for GCN:

- 1) If anyone would like to volunteer to work on the paper's restructuring and fundraising, call GCN at (617) 426-4469.
- 2) If anyone would like to connect with Rebecca or me about the name change, call (617) 338-9595 and leave a message for us.
- 3) GCN needs money. Please send them some. Their new address is 25 West Street, Basement, Boston, MA 02111. If you do send them a donation, please consider enclosing a note telling them you're giving "bisexual money" and you support the inclusion of bisexual language in the paper's tagline and content.

Thanks very much for whatever you can do. With bi participation, we can make a great newspaper become even greater.

To Whom It May Concern:

Dear General Powell...

from WGBH's internal *Les/bi/gay* e-mail:

Prez-elect Bill Clinton has remained admirably firm in his resolve to lift the ban on gay men and lesbians in the US armed forces. An inside source tells us that Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is tallying letters, which, he says, indicate people's reactions to Clinton's promise. According to Powell (whose opposition to the lifting of the ban is well known), the letters are running four-to-one in favor of keeping the ban. Care to shift that balance? You can reach him at:

Gen. Colin Powell
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-5000

Access to Abortion Tenuous in North Dakota

HELP! "Operation Rescue" and "Lambs of Christ" are harassing the Women's Health Organization of Fargo, whose clinic is the ONLY facility in North Dakota still offering abortion as a choice. The goal of the anti-abortion groups is to make North Dakota the first "Abortion-free" state. You can help by sending contributions and/or letters of support to:

Women's Health Organization of Fargo
c/o Jane Bovard
11 14th St. S.
Fargo, ND 58103

source: *North Bi Northwest*

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Ongoing Events

(continued from previous page)

First Saturday
Swingtime, Boston's Monthly Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Swing and Ballroom Dance, 9-midnight, free lesson at 8:15. No smoke or alcohol. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave., near Harvard Square. Info: (617) 629-2219.

Saturdays
New England Gay and Lesbian (NEGAL) Country Dance Group. Traditional New England Contra and Square Dances. 8-11pm, beginners lesson 7:30. All dances smoke- and alcohol-free. Open to all gays, lesbians, bisexuals and their friends. First Church of Jamaica Plain, corner Centre and Eliot Sts., JP. On MBTA Green and Orange lines. \$5.



CALENDAR, from page 12

April 23 ♦ Friday

BiNet USA Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., at George Washington Univ. on the Blue Line. This is the annual business and planning meeting of the national bisexual network. Info: (617) 338-9595.

April 24 ♦ Saturday

National Conference on Bisexuality, Washington, D.C., at American Univ. on the Blue Line. Co-sponsored by the East Coast Bisexual Network, BiNet USA, and the Alliance of Multicultural Bisexuals (AMBi).

Bi-Celebration post-conference party in the evening at George Washington Univ.

All Bi events are wheelchair accessible, including bathrooms. Available during the conference: Free child care, rest area and volunteer counselors. There will be no smoking in the building at the conference or the party. If you need child care or have other special needs (including ASL, large print, braille, etc.) please inform us in advance so that we can accommodate them. A limited number of work exchange and travel scholarships are available.

April 25 ♦ Sunday

The March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation!!! (See related articles, pages 1, 6 and 7.)

Travel and Accommodations for the Meeting, Conference, Party and March:

When you call hotels and travel agents—and do it *soon!*—say that you are calling for the special rate for BiNet USA, ECBN, and AMBi. For accommodations, call Washington DC Accommodations at 1-800-554-2220. For transportation, call Travel, Inc. at 1-800-457-1717 and ask for Dee or Beau. (See page 6 for some more general info.)



CALENDAR

Ongoing Events

First Monday (October-May):
Support Group for White Women Doing Anti-Racism Work. 6:30-8:30pm at the Women's Theological Center, 140 Clarendon St. (YWCA), 6th floor, Boston. Nearest T stops: Back Bay (Orange) and Copley (Green). Free, no reservations required, but a call to say you're coming would be appreciated. Info: (617) 536-8782.

Tuesdays:
Bisexual Women's Rap Group. 7:30pm-10pm at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Central Square, Cambridge. All women welcome. Info: (617) 354-8807.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Freedom Trail Band Rehearsals. Concert and marching band, no auditions. 7:30-9:30pm. Location and info: Kathy (617) 236-5978.

Wednesdays:
Say It, Sister! radio show on WMBR 88.1 FM (first on your FM dial!). 7:30-8:30pm. Info and topics: (617) 253-8810.

First Wednesday:
Incest Survivors' Think-tank. A discussion group for women on feminist and cultural theories and political strategies. Begins promptly at 7:15pm, ends 9:15pm. Info: Thinktank contact person at the Women's Center, (617) 354-8807.



(to page 10)

February 6 ♦ Saturday
Swingtime's 4th Anniversary Dance! Boston's Monthly Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Swing and Ballroom Dance celebrates with the hot 'n' cool sounds of the Cheek to Cheek Big Band. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. near Harvard Sq., Cambridge. \$5, no smoke or alcohol. 9pm to midnight, free dance lesson at 8:15.

February 7 ♦ Sunday
Bi Space, a friendly rap space to meet other bisexuals and talk about bisexual issues. 7-9pm at 95 Berkeley St., Suite 613, in Boston. This is about three blocks from the Arlington St. T stop on the Green line. Parking is limited. A \$2 donation is requested. Info: (617) 338-9595.

February 11 ♦ Wednesday
BBWN General Planning Meeting. All women welcome! Please come! 7-9pm. At the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge. Info: (617) 354-8807.

February 13 ♦ Saturday
NEGAL Dance (see Ongoing Events). 

February 14 ♦ Saturday
BBWN Women's Valentines Day Brunch, 12 noon at Jayne's friend's house in Cambridge, between Central and Harvard Squares. Info and directions: (617) 338-9595.

February 18 ♦ Thursday
Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Speakers Bureau monthly meeting, 7-9pm. Topic: Coping with childhood sexual abuse. All meetings are now held at the Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St. The church is located above the Back Bay Bistro in Copley Square. Take the Green line to Copley or the Orange line to Back Bay Station. Info: (617) 354-0133.

February 20 ♦ Saturday
Monthly Bi Brunch. 11am at Blazing Salad's, 330 Washington St., Boston. Nearest MBTA stop: Downtown Crossing on the Red and Orange lines. Info call: (617) 338-9595.

February 26-28 ♦ Friday-Sunday
BECAUSE: Bisexual Empowerment Conference, A United Supportive Experience. At the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Workshops: relationships, social and spiritual issues, politics and activism, and health and well-being. Keynote speakers: Elias Foreje-Jones, Ph.D.; Maggie Rubenstein, RN, MFCC, Ph.D. Info: BECAUSE 1993, P.O. Box 13158, Minneapolis, MN 55414, or call Lou and Martin at (612) 788-3702, or Heather at (612) 331-5131.

March 6 ♦ Saturday
BBWN Women's Potluck Brunch. 12 noon at Kathrine's in Brookline. Directions, info: (617) 338-9595.

Swingtime, Boston's Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Swing and Ballroom Dance. Theme: 1950's. (See Ongoing Events.)

The new phone number for the Bi Office:
(617) 338-9595

March 7 ♦ Sunday
Bi Space (see Feb. 7).

G/L/B Swing and Ballroom Dance classes begin at Put Your Best Foot Forward. Info: Sara Brodsky at (617) 522-1444.

March 10 ♦ Wednesday
BBWN Introductory Meeting, 7:30-9:00pm. At the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge. A safe place for women to connect with the bi community. Info: (617) 354-8807.

March 12 ♦ Friday
BiWomen submission deadline! 

March 15 ♦ Monday
BBWN Volunteer Night. Help open the mail, collect submissions for the newsletter, respond to requests for information, do what needs to be done. No experience necessary. 7-9pm at 95 Berkeley St. Suite 613. Info: (617) 338-9595

March 18 ♦ Thursday
Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Speakers Bureau monthly meeting, 7-9pm. All meetings are now held at the Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St. The church is located above the Back Bay Bistro in Copley Square. Take the Green line to Copley or the Orange line to Back Bay Station. Info: (617) 354-0133.

March 20 ♦ Saturday
Monthly Bi Brunch. 11am at Johnny D's, Holland St., Somerville. Nearest MBTA stop: Davis Square on the Red line. Info call: (617) 338-9595.

March 24 ♦ Wednesday
Safer Streets Workshop, 7-9pm Sponsored by BBWN, at the Bi Office. Workshop to be presented by Laura Sachs and Paul Briggs. Learn to be street wise and safety aware. Part of the Fenway Community Health Center's Victim Recovery Program. Info: (617) 338-9595.

March 29 ♦ Monday
BBWN Volunteer Night: BiWomen newsletter stuffing, 7pm at the Bi Office, 95 Berkeley St., Suite 613, Boston. Plan ahead—mark your calendars now!

April 3 ♦ Saturday
Swingtime, Boston's Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Swing and Ballroom Dance, with Cheek to Cheek Big Band. (See Ongoing Events.)

April 14 ♦ Wednesday
BBWN General Planning Meeting. All women welcome! Please come! 7-9pm. Please call for location (617) 338-9595.

CALENDAR continues on page 11

Bi Women

The Newsletter of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network



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recycled paper

50 Bi Activists Brave Blizzard of '93

to Attend Abbreviated Community Meeting

by *Stephanie Berger*

On Saturday, March 13, approximately 50 bisexual activists and supporters gathered at City Hall Plaza for the First Annual Bisexual Community

Meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to find out about regional bisexual groups; develop better communication between bisexual groups and individuals; and to begin to create a community that can meet the diverse needs of both bisexuals and bisexual organizations in the region. Those of us on the planning committee saw it as the beginning of an ongoing dialog. We hoped the community meeting would serve as a safe place for bisexual people to discuss our interests, concerns, needs and resources. And then in turn, to create structure(s) or working groups that could address the short term and long term issues raised in these open discussions.

At least 45 brave, or foolhardy, bisexuals and our allies attended the meeting; Mass., Conn., Vt. and Maine were represented. Before we even began to work through the meeting's action-packed and fun-filled agenda there was a consensus to continue this meeting at a later time. The facilitators, Laura Perez and I, proposed we organize a follow-up community meeting the weekend of Boston Pride and BiFest (June 12th and 13th). This idea was overwhelmingly approved by the group.

After the his/herstory of how the meeting came to be and the meeting's proposed mis-

Bi Meeting continues on page 6

BOOK REVIEW

Close To Home: Bisexuality & Feminism

(Edited by Elizabeth Reba Weise, Seal Press, 1992, 330 pp., paper \$14.95.)

Reviewed by *Marcia Deihl*

What She Needs is a Good . . . Theory

The title of this new book is apt. By leaving both male and apolitical bisexuals out of this particular collection, Weise puts the sexual politics of feminism under a microscope. The 1970s women's movement taught us "The Personal is the Political" and "Sisterhood is Powerful." And Alix Dobkin sang, "Any woman can be a lesbian." I took it all to heart. But it never promised that political solutions would solve personal problems, or that political problems could be solved by personal solutions. This book comes closer to home for bisexual women than either feminist theory or queer theory. Bisexual. Old word, old stereotypes. At worst, it connotes a person walking down the street, fucking a woman and a man at the same time (you figure it out, I said "at worst"). There are two things wrong with this word, says Paula C. Rust, an academic sociologist. She interviewed 400 lesbians and bisexual women, asking them, "What is your opinion of bisexuality?" The answers broke down into four groups: bis don't exist (they are hiding or experimenting, and are really either gay or straight); bis are a sort of scotch-tape job of gay and straight halves; bis are in the exact middle of a gay-straight continuum; and bis are a whole 'nother thing, a third distinct category, "Box C" in an "A=straight B=gay" system. This was the view held toward the berdache in many Native American Indian tribes and is my favorite personal role model. The berdache was seen as having a special gift, holding a place of respect as one more citizen of the tribe, not above yet not below the

Home continues on page 8

BBWN News

Volunteers of the Month

Thanks to all the women who have helped BBWN, volunteering in the office, collecting and writing articles for the newsletter, stuffing envelopes, making phone calls . . .

Sue H. • Kathy W. • Jennifer B. • Lori Patterson • Carolyn S. • Ann Goglia • Rebecca Gorlin • Stephanie Berger • Laura Perez • Claire M. • Cathleen F. • Gail Z. • Laura Sachs • Ilta • Kathrine Douthit • Susan R. • Robyn Ochs • Susan S. • Kathleen H. • and many more (you know who you are!)

BBWN Planning Meeting - February 11, 1993

Notes Submitted by Stephanie Berger

Present: Laura Perez, Stephanie Berger (facilitator), Ilta, Claire M., Lori Patterson, Robyn Ochs, Kathrine Anderson, Laura Sachs, Ann Goglia, Rebecca Gorlin, Kathleen Hepburn.

Minutes:

- T-shirts are in and they look GREAT.
- Nightline is doing a show on Bisexuality. They are looking for newly 'out' women, one woman who is married to a man and one woman who formally identified as heterosexual. Robyn is the contact for recruits. Concern expressed about if Nightline is going to throw in a controversy/confrontation.
- BBWN procedural issues discussed at length:
 - changing "Honor Roll" to "Volunteers of the Month"
 - Women should choose how they want to be listed in the Volunteer Column, not just default to first name and initial. Women should be able to use their full names; however, we want women to feel comfortable using initials only or a pseudonym.
 - We need to redefine or at least clearly define our process and how we make decisions as an organization, specifically around issues of consensus.
- Discussion around BBWN becoming officially connected to ECBN (East Coast Bisexual

BiWomen is published bi-monthly.

Sexy Editors:

Kathleen Hepburn
Susan Schiefelbein

Equally Sexy Contributors:

Laura Perez
Marcia Deihl
Robyn Ochs
Kathleen Hepburn
Laura Sachs
Stephanie Berger
Ilta Adler
Ann Goglia
Kathrine Douthit
Julie Waters
Ilta
Sharla
Hannah Lermann
Eve Diana

The Boston Bisexual Women's Network is a feminist, not-for-profit collective organization whose purpose is to bring women together for support and validation. It is meant to be a safe environment in which women of all sexual self-identities, class backgrounds, racial, ethnic and religious groups, ages, abilities and disabilities are welcome. Through the vehicles of discussion, support, education, outreach, political action and social groups related to bisexuality, we are committed to the goals of full acceptance as bisexuals within the gay and lesbian community, and to full acceptance of bisexuality and the liberation of all gay people within the larger society.

Network) to gain non-profit status. This would mean putting ECBN on letterhead and putting a blurb about ECBN in newsletter...

Agreed to discuss further at June 9th meeting after Laura Sachs gets more info on realities. Lori Patterson will talk to Cambridge Women's Center about what's involved in being part of a non-profit

Briefly – *Possible benefits:* consolidate funds; re: bulk mailing of newsletters will save money; we may have access to grant money.

Concerns: fears about being censored or restricted in terms of political content of Bi Women in order not to jeopardize non-profit status; ECBN may not represent similar interests; autonomy issue; some felt decision shouldn't be solely financially motivated.

- 10 Year Anniversary Planning
- Bi Women Retrospective (Robyn Ochs, Kathleen Hepburn & Marcia Deihl - Coordinators)
- Bifocals are putting together a retrospective to be included
- Celebration (Stephanie Berger-Coordinator)
- Media Committee (Kathrine Anderson-Coordinator)- putting together media events
- Boston Pride
- Laura Sachs will get Permit for table
- Stephanie Berger will call Community Church to get brunch space
- Ann Goglia will get information about Bi Women getting an ISBN number

April 14th Planning Meeting we will discuss Boston Pride, March on Washington and BBWN Social Events.

June 9th Planning Meeting we will discuss BBWN's connection to ECBN. ▶



DEADLINE for the June/July issue:
Friday, May 7, 1992

All submissions in writing, please, and include a name and phone number if possible. **If you do not want your name published, please tell us!** Otherwise we may assume that you do not mind being listed as a contributor. **You may contribute anonymously, or just use your first name if you wish.** Send articles, calendar entries, letters, art, news and views to:

BiWomen, BBWN
P.O. Box 639
Cambridge, MA 02140

Letters

Dear Friends,

I thought you'd get a kick out of the enclosed "heterosexuality questionnaire."

Keep up the interesting newsletter.

How about a few more stories on/by married bi-women?

- ER

Heterosexuality Questionnaire

[taken from *Peace and Freedom*, March/April 1993]

This questionnaire has been devised by various individuals in an effort to counteract some of the heterosexist stereotypes and misconceptions that lesbians and gays often are forced to endure. You may distribute this questionnaire, or if you are heterosexual, ask yourself these questions. Many of these questions are a reversal of the questions that lesbians and gays are asked by heterosexuals ignorant of lesbian and gay issues. However, when the questions are turned back toward the questioner, it is easy to see their irony.

1. When and how did you first decide you were a heterosexual?

2. What do you think caused your heterosexuality?

3. Is it possible that your heterosexuality is just a phase you will grow out of?

4. Is it possible that your heterosexuality stems from a neurotic fear of people of the same sex?

5. Heterosexuals have a history of failure in relationships. Do you think that you may have turned heterosexual out of fear of rejection?

6. If you never slept with a person of the same sex, how do you know you wouldn't prefer it?

7. If heterosexuality is normal, why are a disproportionate number of mental patients heterosexuals?

8. To whom have you disclosed your heterosexual tendencies? How did they react?

9. Your heterosexuality doesn't offend me as long as you leave me alone, but why do so many heterosexuals try to seduce others into that orientation?

10. If you would choose to nurture children, would you want them to be heterosexual, knowing the problems they would face?

11. The great majority of child molesters (over ninety percent) are heterosexuals. Do you really consider it safe to expose your children to heterosexual teachers?

12. How could the human race survive into the twenty-first century, if everyone were heterosexual and reproducing, considering the menace of overpopulation?

13. Why are heterosexuals so promiscuous?

14. Even with all the societal supports marriage receives, the divorce rate is astronomical. Why are there so few stable heterosexual relationships?

15. How can you consider yourself a whole person if you limit yourself to compulsive, exclusive heterosexuality? Shouldn't you at least try to develop your natural, healthy homosexual potential?

16. There seem to be very few happy heterosexuals. Techniques have been developed to help you change, if you really want to. Have you considered aversion therapy?



To the readers of BBWN:

I have written to you to help relieve some of my own frustration. I am married (quite happily) to a bisexual woman. She was raised with strict catholic viewpoints and this has prevented her from admitting her bisexuality for many years. Her bisexuality is not the source of my frustration. We have two children and do not wish to destroy our family and we are very compatible as a couple.

My wife loves women. She does not have the desire to be with a woman, she has the need to be with a woman. I cannot provide her with the stimulation and support that she gets from another woman, and yes this includes sexual stimulation as well. She has joined and participated in many support groups and organizations in this area. This includes your group and some lesbian groups. Herein lies the frustration. So far, as soon as she tells anyone she is married, she gets cast out. Sometimes very brutally. If her family were to find out that she was "part-lesbian," she would be isolated even more so. I know there must be others in this area that have felt or feel this same frustration that she has felt.

I ask that you print my letter in your next issue. Perhaps you will get inundated with letters of a similar nature. Perhaps you will get letters of criticism. If nothing else, if there are others out there, you can let them know they are not alone.

Sincerely,
a man

[Thanks for the letter. See column at right.]



Our address:

BiWomen

BBWN

P.O. Box 639

Cambridge, MA

02140



Married Bisexual Women's Support Group

We are looking for bisexual women or lesbians who are married to men, or in long-term partnerships with men, for support groups forming in various parts of New England.

There is a group currently meeting in Somerville, Mass. There is interest in starting additional groups in Mass. (west of Boston), in the Hartford, Connecticut area, and in Cranston, Rhode Island.

Call for information:

Hartford, CT:
Holly, (203) 569-8881

West of Boston, MA:
Peggy, (508) 460-2577

Boston area & RI:
Eve, (617) 629-2375



On Gender and Sexual Orientation

by Julie Waters

An interesting, powerful and sometimes humorous article by Kate Bornstien entitled, "My Girlfriend is Becoming the Man of My Dreams" appeared in the most recent issue of *10 Percent*. The author is a transsexual woman; her lesbian lover was born female and is becoming a man. "You say you're confused? People ask me, am I still lesbian? Will we be a nice straight couple? And until I answer, I don't have an acceptable identity: I don't exist," she writes. In this world of labels, she figures she is "a bisexual, heterosexual, lesbian, gay male transsexual woman who is in a committed relationship with a lesbian lover named David."

- *10 Percent*,
54 Mint St., Suite 200,
San Francisco, CA
94103-1815.

AUGUST 11, 1992: In the time since I first acknowledged my bisexuality (about four years ago) and my transsexuality (about 22 months ago) I've done a considerable amount of soul searching and self analysis, especially in regards to the topics of how gender relates to sexual orientation and how both relate to my perspectives on the world as a whole. This article is intended to share perspectives and viewpoints which, I hope, will challenge many long-standing notions as to how we construct gender and sexual orientation and how they intertwine. Furthermore, I also hope that in writing this article I will not only open minds to some somewhat unusual points of view but will help address concerns which I know are not unique to myself or specifically to transsexuals or bisexuals but which should, instead, concern us all.

At this point in my life I am in what some people would call "transition mode." In other words I am living part-time as a woman but many people still perceive me to be a man. My attire tends to be entirely androgynous. In stores and places of business I often get called "ma'am" or "sir" regardless of my attire. I introduce myself to most people by initials which are gender-neutral and try to avoid giving them any excuse to assign a gender to me. The reason I do this is simple; I do not feel quite capable at this point of "passing" full time as a woman and I absolutely refuse to live as a man. So I choose something which is neither male nor female, nor exactly a hybrid of the two since I think that gender goes a great deal beyond a binary system.

More often than not, gender is viewed on some sort of a continuum. It is common to think of aspects of a person as being more "masculine" or "feminine" and not leave ourselves much room outside of those models. That's partially because we are so fixated on gender in this world as an "either-or" proposition that we can not allow ourselves to see beyond it.

My own opinion is that this is nonsense. I say to you now that there are as many genders in this world, if not more, as there are people with gender. I am not a man but the body I possess has many male aspects to it. I have breasts, but I also have a penis. I have facial hair and a lot of muscle, but I have relatively soft skin. Am I a woman? In my own view, yes. However, it would be arrogant for me to assume that I can share all experiences that women experience. I can never have a period. I can never bear a child. Of course the same can be said for some women. Furthermore, many women are more "masculine" (in purely "traditional" terms) than I am, just as there are many men who are more "feminine."

So what am I? To classify me as "in-between" indicates that my gender is relevant only in terms that relate to more traditionally gendered people. I am not gendered in the same manner as anyone I know and I have to say that it has been my experience that this disturbs a great many people. The same way that people who are not heterosexual are seen and perceived as a threat by many people who are, those of us who are not gendered in a traditional mold may represent some great danger to those of us who are.

Alfred Kinsey created a scale which defines sexual orientation on a scale of 0 to 6, with people who are considered "more heterosexual" leaning towards the lower end of the scale and people who are considered "more homosexual" leaning towards the higher end. Thus, an unwavering "utterly straight" person would be a "0" on the Kinsey scale whereas a person who has never been anything but gay their entire life would end up as a "6." A "perfect" bisexual would be a Kinsey "3," since "3" is the median point between 0 and 6. However, it is my opinion that this scale falls short. As I mentioned in the previous paragraph, to consider my

Gender continues on next page

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ALL Bi, MYSELF by Kathrine Douthit



Gender, from preceding page

gender only in terms of how it relates to other genders is something I find problematic. The same goes for sexual orientation; it seems much too simplistic to only address the topic of bisexuality in terms of how it relates to heterosexuality and homosexuality.

What about people who have shown sexual interest specifically in me? If a lesbian is interested in a woman who has a penis is she still a lesbian? If a gay male is interested in a woman who wants to exchange her penis for a vagina is he still a gay male? Are we interested in the person behind the sex organs or are the sex organs our primary motivating force in determining to whom we are attracted? Do I, to be at a particular point on the Kinsey scale, have to demonstrate my interest in people in terms of how their appearance, actions and attitudes relate to their perceived gender? Their biological gender? Is sexual orientation constructed in a manner which even allows for such perspectives as my own?

So where is the room for she-males, hermaphrodites, drag-queens, non-op transsexuals, transgenderists, crossdressers and all other forms of gender-benders, blenders and breakers in our "spectrum" of sexual orientation? Am I bisexual because I am interested both in men and women or am I bisexual because I am interested in the person behind the gender? Or is it some combination of the two? Does gender play a role but not one to the

point where I would not be attracted to someone based specifically on their gender?

The closest thing I can get to a definitive statement on this topic is simply and utterly that I am Julie. That is my name; the name I have chosen for myself as my own form of self-identification. I am to my own view a woman regardless of how others see me but that hardly rules out my being a woman who also happens to be somewhat androgynous, just as there are very androgynous women who were born women and very androgynous men who were born men. We need to get beyond the points where we feel this need to pigeonhole ourselves into boxes which define our gender and our relative "success" as members of our gender to the point in which our gender defines our identity more than our identity defines our gender. Only then can we truly understand and accept our own individual selves at face value, rather than at value of the faces we put out for others to see.

Julie can be reached through e-mail at:
Julie@drycas.club.cc.cmu.edu,
Julie@drycas.bitnet

or through the post at Julie Waters P.O. Box 23040, Providence, RI 02903-0394

Please note she is available to do workshops and public speaking.

This article was first posted in *OPTIONS*, which is Rhode Island's gay and lesbian paper.

If you're interested in New England Support groups:

Connecticut: The XX Club, Box 387, Hartford CT 06141-0387

Mass: The International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE), Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778. 617-894-8340, fax number is: 617-899-5703

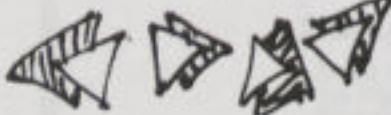


Bi Meeting, from page 1

Representatives from groups throughout New England gave presentations and information on groups which they were involved with. Among those represented were:

BiVersity Boston (Mix Gender Bisexual Group), Boston Bisexual Women's Network (BBWN), Boston Bisexual Men's Network (BBMN), Lesbian & Gay Speaker's Bureau, Connecticut Bisexual Women's Group, Irish American People's Network, Bisexual Women's Rap Group/Women's Center Cambridge, Act Up, Q-Moon (Pansexual Pagans -anyone exploring or wishing to explore any area of sexual identity), East Coast Bisexual Network, Unitarian Universalist Bisexual Network (Continental Unitarian Universalist Bisexual Organization), Interweave (Continental Unitarian Universalist queer Organization), Maine Bisexual People's Network, Maine Social Workers, National Leather Association, LABIA (Lesbian and Bisexual Women in Alliance), Married Bisexual Women's Support Group, AmTikva (Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Jewish Organization), Bisexual Married Men's Support Group, Bisexual Writer's Group, BICEP (Bisexual Committee Engaged in Politics), Cambridge Alliance - Harvard, Fenway Community Health Center, the Vermont Bisexual Video Project and Bisexually inclusive women's/mixed-gender groups in Vermont, Bisexual Married Women's Support Group - Cranston, R.I., and the Bisexual Women's and Married Support Group of Hartford.

- Submitted by Sharla



sion, we began with brief, two-minute presentations by the 26 bisexual and bi-inclusive related organizations that were represented [see list at left]. We called a break before the open forum, as the wind howled around City Hall and the snow swirled sideways outside the Piemonte Room window. We were about 20 minutes into the open discussion when we were told the T was shutting down within the hour. I've never seen a bunch of people move so fast in my life. We were packed up and outta there in 15 minutes. I would like to highlight that in just 20 minutes of open discussion, the following issues were raised by the group: breaking the silence taboo around oppression, the interconnectedness of racism and sexism, generational differences in the 'coming out' process, relationships between bisexual women and lesbians and bisexual men and gay men, issues of organizing in rural vs. urban settings, what is our political agenda and where does it fit in terms of the larger gay and lesbian community, and networking strategies. I think it was obvious to everyone that we had a lot to talk about and a lot of resources and experience to share with each other.

Announcements followed the presentations. Some of the exciting news: BBWN is the oldest Bisexual Women's Network in the world and will be celebrating their 10th Anniversary this year; the next release of the International Directory of Bisexual Organizations; and the success of historical groups as well as the possible re-emergence of others such as BICEP. It was great to hear of new

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Bisexual groups forming locally, nationally or internationally, and to hear of groups becoming more vocal and visible regarding their acceptance and inclusion of Bisexual people.

Unfortunately, because of the weather (i.e., a state of emergency being called and the city shutting down) we were unable to finish. I want to thank everyone who did brave the weather to attend this historic event and everyone who contributed to make the meeting possible: Lori Patterson, Wayne Bryant, Ilta, Sue H., Mike J. Leibensperger, Jimmie H., Ruth L., Rebecca B., Ann G., Laura Perez, Stephanie Berger, Mary Louise, Liz Nania, Cathleen Finn, Ginny L., Alan Hamilton, Liz Highleyman, Kim K. (the ASL interpreter), and all the folks who put up posters and volunteered the day of the meeting.

There WILL be a community meeting the weekend of June 12th/13th, if you are interested in getting involved, on any level, please call (617) 338-9595 and leave a message. I assume the planning committee will start meeting sometime after we've all dug ourselves out in the spring. It doesn't snow in June does it?

- Sharla also contributed
to this article

The Bi Community Meeting Through the Eyes of the Food Queen

by Ilta

Saturday, March 13, 1993 started at 8:00 am for me. I had volunteered to be food queen, and it was time to go shop for food. Lori and I had tried the night before, but what with being a Friday, and the general panic brought about by the impending storm, it had been much too crowded for sane people to go shopping. The morning was cold and grey, but there was no snow. None in the air and none on the ground. After months of planning, the First Annual Bisexual Community Meeting was about to happen.

Our first planning meeting had been months ago, and we had started out with a bang. We were excited, rearing to go. But as meeting after meeting went by the excitement diminished. From an original twenty or so, we were boiled down to the faithful six. Wayne, Stephanie, Laura, Lori, Jimmy, and I. The lowest point was when we realized we had to either cancel or move the meeting from the original date of February 27th to March 13th. We obviously opted for moving the date and by the end of February we knew we were ready to go. Especially with the help from

Bi Meeting continues on next page

Bi Meeting, from previous page

Mike, Rebecca, and Ruth, as well as some great publicity via posterizing and computer nets.

Then the weather reports started coming in. The blizzard of '93 was heading for a confrontation with the Bi's of New England. After all our planning, we decided we were up to the challenge.

By noon on Saturday it had started to snow, and the temperature plummeted. Lori and I got there first with the food, and cleared the way with the security guard. Volunteers arrived in droves, and once they found the one and only way into the building, setting up was easy and painless.

By 12:30 people were chowing down and browsing through each others pamphlets. At about 1:15 we started the meeting.

First our facilitators, Laura and Stephanie, gave us the ground rules as well as the sad fact that due to the weather conditions we were cutting down on the agenda.

Then a spokesperson(s) from each group represented there, gave a brief description and contact number for each group. There were questions from the crowd about each group, which showed these introductions all worth while. Then the contact name and number was written down on our handy newsprint. At least one master copy will be available at the Bi resource office) At the end of this we had group announcements about upcoming events and planning meetings. This all seemed to take over an hour, so next came a bathroom/food break.

What briefly followed was a general open forum for any one wished to talk about any bi issues. I say briefly because by this time the wind was howling around the building, visibility was worse than poor, and the windows were shaking. Sometime around 3:30-3:45 we sadly disbanded the meeting.

Then we cleaned up and battled the elements to find our way home. All in all, while we didn't accomplish all that we wanted to, we did manage to accomplish quite a lot. About fifty people braved a blizzard to come to this meeting, some from as far as Vermont and Connecticut. At least one person there chose this as her very first intro to the bi community, and, I believe, left with as much as she had hoped for. And most important, the meeting went on. Now that we have raised peoples expectations, this will be something that can truly live up to its name, the Annual Bisexual Community Meeting. ▼



Bi Events for the 1993 March on Washington

Fri. April 23, all day:

BiNet USA Annual Meeting

Open to all members of BiNet (you can join at the door or when you register by mail). Voting on BiNet business. George Washington University

Sat. April 24, all day:

National Conference on Bisexuality

Will include workshops on a wide variety of topics and keynote speakers. Open to all bi, bi-friendly and bi-interested people. American University

Sat. April 24, post-conference:

Bi Celebration dance party.

George Washington University.

Sun. April 25: Bi Contingent in the march

For all bis, friends and supporters

Mon. April 26: Lobbying and Civil Disobedience (CD) in D.C.

Focus and location of CD actions to be determined. Sponsored by: BiNet, ECBN, AMBi DC.

Fees: BiNet membership: \$1 or more per \$1000 annual income; National conference: by 3/1 — reg: \$40, low inc.: \$20, after 3/1 — reg: \$60, low inc.: \$35. Party tickets: by 3/1 — reg: \$8, low inc.: \$6, after 3/1 — reg: \$12, low inc.: \$8

Mail registration to: ECBN/Conference, P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140

The following hotels are holding

rooms: Stouffer's Concourse (\$99 1-4 people), Wyndham Bristol Hotel (\$139 1-4 people). Call DC Accommodations at 1-800-554-2220 for both hotels. Don't forget to make your plane/train reservations soon! (Capitol Travel 1-800-662-6988; Travel Inc — Dee or Beau at 1-800-457-1717) ▼

Washington DC
APRIL 25, 1993



**DON'T MISS
THIS ONE!**

WANTED:

A few, fab gals with a yen to vocalize! BBWN wishes to provide a taped version of BiWomen for people unable to read print. Let's make BiWomen accessible to ALL!!

If you wish to be involved in this very important process, i.e. devoting just a few hours of time every other month please contact [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]

No discretion necessary. ▼

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We're Five Years Old!

by Hannah Lermann

The Hasbians, a Boston-based bisexual women's support group, is happy to announce the celebration of our 5th anniversary together.

The group formed in April of 1988 to provide support for lesbian women coming out as bisexual. Over the course of five years of monthly meetings, we've helped one another through individual and collective changes and sashayed all over the Kinsey scale. Our strength truly lies in our diversity and acceptance of ourselves and each other. Congratulations and warm wishes for several years more of "supportive schmoozing" to: Claire, Joyce, Karen O., Karen S., Sharon, Lynne, and Hannah.

(artists' rendition)



Looking for a place?

I'm a 27 y.o. Bi ♀ looking for another Bi ♀ or Bi-friendly Lesbian to share my 2-bedroom, smoke-free, pet-free apartment. It's a quiet, safe Dorchester, MA neighborhood, and just 3 blocks from the T. \$225/mo. + util. Available 5/1. Call Linda, afternoons at (617) 524-3636.

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Closer to Home, from page 1

others (see Walter L. Williams, *The Spirit and the Flesh: Sexual Diversity in American Indian Culture*, Beacon Press, 1986; and Will Roscoe, ed., *Living in the Spirit: A Gay American Indian Anthology*, St. Martin's Press, 1989). First, the word "bisexual" is itself problematic, a product of the dominant (read straight male) culture. "Bi" means two, two sexes as potential lovers, but first of all, this assumes that there are only two possibilities of gender (masculine and feminine) and that we are defined by our partners and not within our own selves. What if we are celibate? What if our partner is a transsexual? And just what is a "male" or "female" trait? Secondly, the "sex" part is as problematic as "homosexual"—it focuses on sex (usually meaning "man fucking woman, missionary position" in Western minds). This leaves out emotional and intellectual and spiritual ties among people, let alone the political implications of their choices. And for many feminist women, "constructionism" (invented sexuality) has been as important as "essentialism" (discovered sexuality) in determining our choice of partners (see p. 253 for a nutshell definition of a debate which has floated more than one academic career).

Those Cunning Linguists

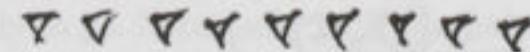
In order to smash binary thinking (both in terms of gender and sexual orientation) and put

the focus on the whole bisexual person herself (not her partner, which not only attaches more importance to another person, but implies she changes completely every time her partner does), Rust suggests "pansexual." She brainstorms the words "idiosexual" or "autosexual" but fears that people will think she's a "masturbating sexual idiot" (p. 300). Other cunning linguists attempt some New Words (as Mary Daly would say) for our new identities, knowing all the while that it's hard to change the words which have always been the patriarchy's tools. Kathleen Bennett says it well: "In order to be happily deviant, we must manage the dialectical balance between reinventing our lives from our own experience and dealing with negative images of ourselves that stem from deeply held myths." (p. 219). Although we'd like to imply that these myths are all held by those patriarchal bigots "out there," few of us have escaped without some amount of internalized homophobia. Many bisexuals maintain that they are not "only 50% oppressed" by heterosexism. Surprisingly, Rust concedes that it may be true, in theory, that bis are "half-oppressed" and that all of our oppressions stem from our "gay" halves, but she digs deeper. Even if all of our "gay" issues are covered in current gay and lesbian organizations, what is it about us which still remains oppressed? She answers: We are the front line survivors of binary thinking, good ol' Cartesian white boy logic, which says you have to be either spiritual or political, logical or emotional, gay or straight, crazy or sane, a closed couple or a lone single, mainstream or oddball, or black or white.

This knowledge is important to the dominant culture of course—they need to know if you're right or wrong and if you belong on top or underneath.

Speaking to Jennifer Abod in the May 1992 *Sojourner*, Patricia J. Williams discusses her new book, *The Alchemy of Race and Rights* (Harvard University Press, 1991). In it, she counteracts binary thinking in law school education (public vs. private and "objective" vs. "subjective") by using the image of a polar bear shaman with "black skin and white fur," and describes herself as being an oxymoron: a black woman contract lawyer who finds the slave contract for her own great-great-grandmother. But binary tyranny is one oppression that gay men and lesbians don't suffer from. They know they're "Choice B," whether other people approve or not. ▼

Part 2 of this article will appear in the next issue of *BiWomen*



Phil Donahue Meets BBWN

BBWN was well represented on the panel of the Donahue Show which was taped on January 21, 1993. Three of the five panelists were BBWN members. The show, entitled: "Bisexuals Discriminated Against By Gays and Heterosexuals" had a positive and educational tone, partly because the panelists agreed in advance that they would do everything possible to minimize the intended focus on "why lesbians and gay men hate bisexuals." All of the panelists concurred that a focus on community in-fighting would detract from the much more pressing problems of homophobia and heterosexism. Ann Northrup, a lesbian activist who was expected to represent "all lesbians and gay men," joined us in our strategy. The result: a show whose focus was largely on personal stories, but we managed to talk about the bisexual movement, *Bi Any Other Name*, the *International Directory of Bisexual Groups*, The March on Washington, and heterosexual privilege, among other things. The show ended on a wonderful note. As the credits began to



Left to right: John Murdzak, Eve Diana, Michael Syzmansky, Lilian Smith (Assoc. Producer), Phil Donahue, Robyn Ochs, Lani Kaahumanu

roll, a woman in the audience stood up and commented, in a beautiful NY accent, "I just want to say, sex, schmex. As long as we're loving somebody, who cares?"

- Robyn Ochs



Feminist E-Mail Lists - by Eve Diana

The following is a valuable (but teeny-tiny) collection of feminist e-mail lists for all you computer hackers out there (snail-mail devotees beware!)

WMST-L is a very active list devoted to the academic and professional side of women's studies, especially with issues having to do with teaching, research, and program administration. To subscribe send the message SUBSCRIBE WMST-L YOUR NAME to LISTSERV@UMDD (Bitnet) or LISTSERV@UMDD.UMD.EDU (Internet).

There is a moderated list called GENDER that is devoted especially to "discussion of issues pertaining to the study of communication and gender." To subscribe, send the following message to COMSERVE@RPIECS (Bitnet) or COMSERVE@VM.ECS.RPI.EDU (Internet): SUBSCRIBE GENDER Your Name. Note that for this list you send subscription requests to COMSERVE rather than to LISTSERV.

The moderated USENET news group soc.feminism (see below) is available in digest form via e-mail for those who either cannot access Usenet or prefer the digest format. To subscribe to the digest, send a request to FEMINISM-DIGEST@NCAR.UCAR.EDU (Internet) or FEMINISM-DIGEST@NCAR.UCAR.EDU@NCAR (Bitnet). Digest recipients can then respond to postings by sending messages to FEMINISM@NCAR.UCAR.EDU (Internet) or FEMINISM@NCAR.UCAR.EDU@NCAR (Bitnet).

There are, in addition, some lists that have only Internet addresses. (If you don't have Internet access, ask the computer people at your institution how to send mail to these lists through a gateway.) For example, there is a moderated list called FEMAIL that "exists to provide a shared communication channel for feminists around the world." Both men and women may join. Subscription requests should be sent to FEMAIL-REQUEST@LUCERNE.ENG.SUN.COM.

Yet another list is WOMEN@ATHENA.MIT.EDU, which describes itself as a "general purpose list, intended to be a connection between all women's groups and areas of interest for women and their friends." Send subscription requests to WOMEN-REQUEST@ATHENA.MIT.EDU.

A new list for feminist-friendly men started in August, 1992. It's called the Profeminist Men's Issues list (PROFEMEN@HAMP.HAMPSHIRE.EDU). To subscribe send a message to the listowner: jyanowitz@hamp.hampshire.edu. MAIL-MEN describes itself as "a place of openness and support" where men and women can discuss men's issues, which it defines as "those problems or experiences that affect male humans." Send subscription requests to MAIL-MEN-REQUEST@USL.COM.

WON is an Internet list, the Women's On-line Network, an electronic political group for women. It "will distribute information, aid in the coordination of useful political action, and provide a forum for developing strategies to improve the position of women in our society." Unlike the other lists mentioned here, WON charges a fee: \$20 per year, negotiable if necessary. To join, contact the co-founders at CARMELA@ECHO.PANIX.COM or HORN@ECHO.PANIX.COM or by phone at (212) 255-3839 (New York).

Another source of electronic forums is Usenet, with its vast array of "news groups." Among the hundreds of groups are the following: soc.feminism, soc.women, soc.men, and soc.gender-issues. These news groups all carry discussions of male/female relations as well as other topics. The news groups are public, open to both men and women. Soc.feminism is moderated; the others are not and tend to be somewhat wilder and more argumentative. Since methods of accessing Usenet news groups vary from system to system, the best thing would be to ask the computer people at your institution how to access these news groups on your particular system. There are also several more specialized lists that may be of interest to some SWIP-L subscribers.

One is EDUCOM-W, which describes itself as "a moderated list to facilitate discussion of issues in technology and education that are of interest to women." Subscription messages should be sent to LISTSERV@BITNIC (Bitnet) or LISTSERV@BITNIC.EDUCOM.ORG (Internet). Another list is SYSTERS; it is designed for professional women in computer science. Topics vary, but include introductions, job listings, book reviews, discrimination, "what should I do" situations, and setting up systers meetings at conferences. It is also a place to organize efforts to change or influence policies affecting women in computer science. For information, write to Anita Borgat SYSTERS-REQUEST@DECWRL.DEC.COM. A third, relatively new list for women in science, mathematics, and engineering is WISENET. Send subscription messages to LISTSERV@UICVM (Bitnet) or LISTSERV@UICVM.UIC.EDU (Internet).

Another relatively new list is FEMINIST, which is owned by the Feminist Task Force of the American Library Association. It deals with issues such as sexism in libraries and librarianship, pornography and censorship in libraries, and racism and ethnic diversity in librarianship. Subscription messages (SUB FEMINIST Your Name) should be sent to LISTSERV@MITVMA (Bitnet) or LISTSERV@MITVMA.MIT.EDU (Internet). An even newer list (begun Jan. '92) FEMECON-L, a list for feminist economists (send subscription messages to MAILSERV@BUCKNELL.EDU "Internet" or MAILSERV@BKNLVMS "Bitnet") and FEMREL-L, a list concerning women and religion and feminist theology (send subscription messages to LISTSERV@UMCVMB).

There are several lists devoted to issues of sexual orientation. SAPPHO is a forum and support group for gay and bisexual women. Membership is open to all women and is limited to women. For more information, contact SAPPHO-REQUEST@MC.LCS.MIT.EDU (Internet). BISEXU-L describes itself as designed for "the cordial and civilized exchange of ideas, opinions, and experiences relevant to the topic of bisexuality between members of all sexual orientations and preferences." It is open to anyone. Subscription messages (SUB BISEXU-L Your Name) should be sent to LISTSERV@BROWNVMB (Bitnet) or LISTSERV@BROWNVMB.BROWN.EDU (Internet). In contrast, BIFEM-L is a moderated list for women only. Its purpose is to provide a safe space primarily for bisexual women. Subscription messages (SUB BIFEM-L Your Name) should also be sent to LISTSERV@BROWNVMB.BROWN.EDU or LISTSERV@BROWNVMB. Finally, there is GAYNET, a list focusing on gay and lesbian concerns on college campuses. Subscription messages should be sent to GAYNET-REQUEST@ATHENA.MIT.EDU (Internet).

notes

BUTTONS

Bisexual Pride
Visi BI lity
Bisexual Queer

▼
on sale at the Bi Office.

Send

\$1

plus a stamped, self-addressed envelope (or 50¢ postage and handling) to:

BBWN
P.O. Box 639
Cambridge, MA
02140

NASW

The Committee on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Issues of the NASW (National Association of Social Workers), Massachusetts Chapter provides a forum for lesbian, gay and bisexual social workers and their straight supporters to meet, learn from, and support one another. The Committee welcomes all lesbian, gay, and bisexual social workers and social work interns, as well as their supporters. The Committee meets monthly on a weekday evening at the homes of various members. The agendas typically include clinical presentations, topical discussions, and political advocacy.

To get on their confidential mailing list or to get more information, call (617) 227-9635 or write NASW, 14 Beacon St., Room 409, Boston, MA 02108. ▼

New Books

Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press announces the publishing of *Camp Notes and Other Poems* by Mitsuye Yamada on the 50th anniversary of Japanese-American internment. Ms. Yamada's poetry confronts her family's difficult history of being incarcerated in U.S. concentration camps during World War II with a powerful ability to extract as well as create artistic truths.

Also available: "African-American Women In Defense of Ourselves" commemorative poster of African American women's protest against the Clarence Thomas - Anita Hill hearings.

Both are available through your local book store, or from *Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press*, P.O. Box 908, Latham, NY 12110. ▼

Bisexual Writers Group

The Bi Writers Group is for anyone who wants support as a writer either writing about bisexual issues or as a bisexual person who writes. Genres welcomed include fiction, poetry, nonfiction, political essays, commentary, and critiques of films, videos, or books. The Bi Writers Group meets on the first Thursday of every month, from 7 to 9 pm at the Bisexual Resource Office, 95 Berkeley Street, Suite 613, Boston. For more info about this or other activities for members of the bisexual community, call (617) 338-9595. ▼

Women's Music Directory

A directory of resources in women's music and culture is now available. The directory is entitled "1993 Women's Music Plus" and includes almost 4,000 names and addresses of performers, producers, technicians, writers, events, festivals, organizations, and the like. To obtain your copy, send \$13 plus \$2 postage/handling to Women's Music Plus, c/o 5210 N. Wayne, Chicago, IL 60640. ▼

Study Announcement:

International Diversity in Bi Identity, Community, and Politics

by Paula C. Rust

[taken from The Bi Monthly, The Champaign-Urbana Bisexual Network Newsletter, vol. 2, iss. 3]

Women and men in the United States, United Kingdom of Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand are needed to participate in the study of sexual/bisexual identity and development of bisexual community and politics. This involves an anonymous questionnaire that includes questions on coming out, what it means to be bisexual, your opinions about bisexuality, and your views on the future of bi community and politics. You do not have to be involved in a bisexual community or bi politics to participate, and you do not have to be bisexual to participate. If you are interested or want further information, contact Paula C. Rust, Ph. D., Department of Sociology, Hamilton College, 198 College Hill Rd., Clinton, NY 13323, or leave a telephone message at (315) 859-4219, or send e-mail to prust@itsmail1.hamilton.edu. ▼

Vermont Video Project

A documentary style video is being produced by some intrepid Vermont Bisexuals. There will be a series of individual and group interviews on many topics of bi peoples lives, e.g. issues of labelling — why or why not, what does it mean to you?; interaction with the lesbian and gay communities; etc. The Vermonters are looking for Bis in New England who have filming or editing experience, or who are willing to be interviewed. They are also looking for folks who will want to show the video in their community. If you are interested, write to Jill Merkel, RR #1, Box 348, Waitsfield, VT 05673, or phone (802) 496-2071. ▼

- submitted by Laura Sachs

New Support Group / Book Project

A new bisexual support group that is open to all, currently meets in Burlington, Vermont. For more information please write Kimberly Ward, RR #1, Box 1592, Fairfax, VT 05454, or telephone (802) 524-0234 (no discretion necessary).

In addition, Kimberly would like to write a book geared toward educating adolescents about what it's like to be bisexual. If anyone is interested in this topic, please contact her at the address listed above. ▼

CALENDAR, *from page 12*

May 12 ♦ Wednesday

BBWN Introductory Meeting, 7:30-9:00pm. At the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge. A safe place for women to connect with the bi community. Info: (617) 354-8807.

May 15 ♦ Saturday

Monthly Bi Brunch, 11am. Call for location: (617) 338-9595.

NEGAL Dance (see *Ongoing Events*).

May 20 ♦ Thursday

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Speakers Bureau monthly meeting, 7-9pm at the Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St. The church is located above the Back Bay Bistro in Copley Square. Take the Green line to Copley or the Orange line to Back Bay Station. Info: (617) 354-0133.

May 24 ♦ Monday

BBWN Volunteer Night: *BiWomen* newsletter stuffing, 7pm at the Bi Office, 95 Berkeley St., Suite 613, Boston. Plan ahead—mark your calendars now!

June 5 ♦ Saturday

Swingtime Boston's Pride Dance/Season Finale. Boston's Gay/ Lesbian/ Bisexual Swing and Ballroom Dance, with the sounds of the Cheek to Cheek Big Band. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. near Harvard Sq., Cambridge. \$6, no smoke or alcohol. 9pm to midnight, free dance lesson at 8:15. Info: (617) 629-2219.

June 6 ♦ Sunday

Bi Space (see April 4).

June 9 ♦ Wednesday

BBWN General Planning Meeting. All women welcome! Please come! Here's your chance to learn more about the network or to get involved. 7-9pm at the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge. Info: (617) 338-9595.

June 12 & 13 ♦ Saturday & Sunday

Boston Pride Weekend! Plan now to join us for brunch on Saturday and lots of other bi community events all weekend!

Get your Bi Pride T-Shirts!!

For just \$15 (or \$14 if you come to the Bi Office) you get a Bisexual Pride t-shirt in black or deep purple sizes small to xx-large. Please indicate size and color with order.

Make check out to BBWN and send to:

BBWN, attn. Stephanie/T-shirts,
95 Berkeley St., Suite 613
Boston, MA 02116.

We've ordered less than 200, so order NOW!

Subscribe to **BiWomen!**

To start a new subscription or renew your current one, fill out the form below.

Name _____

Address _____

New Renewal

Sliding scale (check one):

\$0-20 (pay what you can) _____

\$20-30 (suggested) _____

\$30-100 _____

Send this form along with your check to:

BBWN
P.O. Box 639
Cambridge, MA 02140

SUBSCRIBE! ↑

Hot Dam!

[taken from North Bi Northwest, vol. 6, no. 1, February/March 1993]

The Northwest AIDS Foundation and Smart Women offered HOT DAM!, a workshop about women, sex, and latex on Saturday February 6, 1993. The workshop is designed to offer Lesbians and Bisexual women a chance to talk about safer sex, sexuality, and the reality of HIV/AIDS in our communities. Workshop participants had the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of HIV disease manifestations specific to women and reasons behind why Lesbians and Bisexual women have been invisible in this epidemic. Participants worked on communication skills so that safe sex concerns can be discussed with a partner, and they had "hands on" experiences eroticizing safe sex.

HOT DAM! workshops will be held quarterly and are limited to 50 people. Child care and ASL is provided upon request. To register, call the Northwest AIDS Foundation's Information and Referral Line at (206) 329-6923 ext. 241. TDD, (206) 323-2685.

Ongoing Events

(continued from p. 12)

Saturdays:

Steppin' Out at the Y, Cambridge YWCA in Central Sq.; Country/Western dances; Gay-positive space for men and women. Everyone welcome. 7pm dance lessons. 8-11pm. Admission \$6. Info: (617) 562-0294.

New England Gay and Lesbian (NEGAL) Country Dance Group. Traditional New England Contra and Square Dances. 8-11pm, beginners lesson 7:30. All dances smoke- and alcohol-free. Open to all gays, lesbians, bisexuals and their friends. First Church of Jamaica Plain, corner Centre and Eliot Sts., JP. On MBTA Green and Orange lines. \$5. Info: Janet, (617) 522-2216.

On Our Backs Censored

During production of the November/December '92 issue, **On Our Backs** [a lesbian sex magazine] was confronted with censorship. On very short notice, newly hired Dimension Graphics refused to print two photographs, one of a woman masturbating with a dildo, the other of lesbians practicing safe sex using plastic wrap. Dimension Graphic's corporate policy is not based on any local or federal laws, but on their own "personal mores" against printing depictions of penetration, whether explicit or implied.

Despite this setback, **On Our Backs** was able to print the photographs in the January/February '93 issue, in their old non-glossy format, by reverting to their original printer back in San Francisco.

CALENDAR

Ongoing Events

First Monday (October-May): **Support Group for White Women Doing Anti-Racism Work.** 6:30-8:30pm at the Women's Theological Center, 140 Clarendon St. (YWCA), 6th floor, Boston. Nearest T stops: Back Bay (Orange) & Copley (Green). Free, no reservations required; a call to say you're coming would be appreciated. Info: (617) 536-8782.

Tuesdays: **Bisexual Women's Rap Group.** 7:30pm-10pm at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Central Square, Cambridge. All women welcome. Info: (617) 354-8807.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Freedom Trail Band **Rehearsals.** Concert and marching band, no auditions. 7:30-9:30pm. Location and info: Kathy (617) 236-5978.

Wednesdays: **Say It, Sister!** radio show on WMBR 88.1 FM (first on your FM dial!). 7:30-8:30pm. Info and topics: (617) 253-8810.

First and Third Tuesdays: **Bisexual Issues Rap Group** at the New Haven Women's Center, 614 Orange St., (corner Bishop) New Haven, Conn. Please call to specify wheelchair access or ASL interpreting requirements. Voice (203) 776-2658, TTY and voice (203) 397-2381.

▼
▼
(turn to page 10)

April 3 ♦ Saturday

Gender-free Country Dance Workshop, 1-2:30pm at Ballet, Etc. dance studios, 185 Corey Rd. One block off Washington St., corner of Westbourne Terr. and Corey Rd. MBTA Green Line (C or D). \$12 at door, \$10 prepay. Info: (617) 522-1444.

Swingtime, Boston's Monthly Gay/ Lesbian/Bisexual Swing and Ballroom Dance, with the hot 'n' cool sounds of the Cheek to Cheek Big Band. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. near Harvard Sq., Cambridge. \$6, no smoke or alcohol. 9pm to midnight, free dance lesson at 8:15. Info: (617) 629-2219.

NEGAL Dance (see *Ongoing Events*).

April 4 ♦ Sunday

Enjoy a Multicultural Performing Arts Concert to benefit the battered women's programs of the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry: Renewal House and the Asian Women's Project, 2-4:30pm at the First Church in Roxbury.

Bi Space, a friendly rap space to meet other bisexuals and talk about bisexual issues. 7-9pm at 95 Berkeley St., Suite 613, in Boston. This is about three blocks from the Arlington St. T stop on the Green line. Parking is limited. A \$2 donation is requested. Info: (617) 338-9595.

April 10 ♦ Saturday

BBWN Women's Brunch, 12 noon at someone's house. Info and directions: (617) 338-9595.

Gender-free Cajun Dance Workshop, Basic & variations. (See April 3.)

April 14 ♦ Wednesday

BBWN General Planning Meeting. All women welcome! Please come! Help run the network! Meet interesting women! 7-9pm at 95 Berkeley St., Suite 613, in Boston. Info: (617) 338-9595.

April 15 ♦ Thursday

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Speakers Bureau monthly meeting, 7-9pm. Topic: Danielle Pedalborde, Boston High School, will make a presentation on how to speak to urban high school kids effectively. All meetings are now held at the Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St. The church is located above the Back Bay Bistro in Copley Square. Take the Green line to Copley or the Orange line to Back Bay Station. Info: (617) 354-0133.

April 17 ♦ Saturday

Monthly Bi Brunch. 11am at Café Moka on Dartmouth St. in Boston, on the first floor of Tent City, across from the Back Bay T stop. Info: (617) 338-9595.

Pride Weekend Planning Committee meeting following the Bi Brunch (see above). Please come to help plan for an exciting Pride weekend!

NEGAL Dance (see *Ongoing Events*).

April 23 ♦ Friday

BiNet USA Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., at George Washington Univ. on the Blue Line. This is the annual business and planning meeting of the national bisexual network. Info: (617) 338-9595.

April 24 ♦ Saturday

National Conference on Bisexuality, Washington, D.C., at American Univ. on the Blue Line. Co-sponsored by the East Coast Bisexual Network, BiNet USA, and the Alliance of Multicultural Bisexuals (AMBi). Volunteers are needed: (319) 354-5793.

Bi-Celebration post-conference party in the evening at George Washington Univ.

All Bi events are wheelchair accessible, including bathrooms. Available during the conference: Free child care, rest area and volunteer counselors. There will be no smoking in the building at the conference or the party. If you need child care or have other special needs (including ASL, large print, Braille, etc.) please inform us in advance so that we can accommodate them. A limited number of work exchange and travel scholarships are available.

April 25 ♦ Sunday

The March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation!!! (See related article on page 7.)

May 1 ♦ Saturday

NEGAL Dance (see *Ongoing Events*).

May 2 ♦ Sunday

Bi Space (see April 4).

May 7 ♦ Friday

BiWomen submission deadline!

May 8 ♦ Saturday

BBWN Women's Brunch, 12 noon at someone's house. Info and directions: (617) 338-9595.

Swingtime, Boston's Monthly Gay/ Lesbian/Bisexual Swing and Ballroom Dance. Country/Swing Dance. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. near Harvard Sq., Cambridge. \$6, no smoke or alcohol. 9pm to midnight, free dance lesson at 8:15. Info: (617) 629-2219.

May 10 ♦ Monday

BBWN Volunteer Night. Help open the mail, collect submissions for the newsletter, respond to requests for information, do what needs to be done. No experience necessary. 7-9pm at 95 Berkeley St. Suite 613. Info: (617) 338-9595

CALENDAR continues on page 11



June/July 1993

Vol. 11 No. 3

Bi Women

The Newsletter of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network

Bi Activists Gather in D.C.

Washington will never be the same

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On Sunday, April 25, 1993, one million people descended on Washington, D.C., for the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation. But for hundreds of Bis and Bi friends, a long and exciting weekend was already underway.

The BiNet USA Annual Meeting was held on Friday, April 23, at George Washington University, and was attended by over 100 bi activists. The meeting was followed by Erotic Story Telling Friday evening at American University.

On Saturday, April 24, over 500 people attended the National Conference Celebrating Bisexuality, also at American University. The keynote speakers for the conference were Loraine Hutchins, Elias Farajaje-Jones, Starhawk, and Warren Blumenfeld. There were nearly 50 workshops covering a broad range of issues and topics on bisexuality and bisexual experiences, such as: Identity - Theory and History; Identity - Orientation and Self Identification; Relationships; Healthcare - Activism and AIDS/HIV; Activism - Structure and Organizational; Activism - Community and Alliance Building; Sex/Sexuality - Activism and Spirituality; Creating a Bisexual Aesthetic; and Spirituality.



PHOTO BY ROBYN OCHS

The Boston Bisexual Women's Network banner at the March on Washington.
See more Bi banners on page 3.

A post-conference Bi Celebration party at George Washington University rounded out the weekend of Bi events. Proceeds from the conference and party will provide seed money for the 1994 June 25-26 International Conference Celebrating Bisexuality in New York City during Stonewall 25: International March on the United Nations to Affirm the Human Rights of Lesbian and Gay People, and support the work of the sponsoring organizations.

The BI EVENTS at the March on Washington were organized by:

- BiNET USA, a national bisexual political, educational and networking organization working for the equal rights and liberation of bisexuals and all oppressed people. Membership includes a newsletter. Address: POB 772, Washington, DC 20044-0722, USA.

Washington continues on page 3

Printed on recycled paper

BBWN News

Volunteers of the Month

Thanks to all the women who have helped the network by volunteering in the Bi Office, writing articles for the newsletter, stuffing envelopes, making phone calls, going to meetings . . .

Gail Z. • Eve Diana
• Cally Perry •
Sharon G. •
Lori Paterson •
Stephanie Berger •
Ilta • Laura Sachs •
Claire M. • Maria •
Robyn Ochs • Ann
Goglia • Annie S. •
Laura Perez •
Kathrine Douthit •
E. Nania • Kathleen
• Susan S. •
Ms. Anonymous

BiWomen is published bi-monthly.

Humble Editor:
Kathleen Hepburn

Editorial Staff:
Stephanie Berger
Ilta
Kathrine Douthit
Julie Waters
Ilta
Eve Diana
Megan
Lori Patterson
Susan Schiefelbein

Boston BiFest 93

Boston BiFest will be happening the weekend of June 11,12,13.

Highlights include:

Friday night: Bi cult classic movies, talk show clips, Bi reading and erotic story telling

Saturday: The annual pre-pride brunch sponsored by BBWN, the Boston Pride march in the afternoon, and a dance in the evening

Sunday: Workshops and the non-blizzard annual community meeting follow up.

Please come to the **BiFest planning meeting** on **Monday, June 7 at 7pm** at the Bi Office. We need *lots* more help. Volunteers are needed for all sorts of small jobs like running a VCR, helping with registration, setting out food, cleaning up, working on the dance, decorating, staffing the Pride day booth, etc. In other words, no matter what your skill set, we could use your help. Please come and lend a hand.

— Stephanie Berger

Check the CALENDAR (p. 12) for more info about Boston Bi Fest!

Letter from the Editor...

Dearest Readers,

As is usually the case, there were many articles and news items that were submitted for this issue of BiWomen. It's hard to decide which to include, which to hold for a future issue, and which not to publish at all.

Here are some guidelines we follow to help us decide which articles to print, in *approximate* order of priority:

Original writing, letters, poems and artwork by

The Boston Bisexual Women's Network is a feminist, not-for-profit collective organization whose purpose is to bring women together for support and validation. It is meant to be a safe environment in which women of all sexual self-identities, class backgrounds, racial, ethnic and religious groups, ages, abilities and disabilities are welcome. Through the vehicles of discussion, support, education, outreach, political action and social groups related to bisexuality, we are committed to the goals of full acceptance as bisexuals within the gay and lesbian community, and to full acceptance of bisexuality and the liberation of all gay people within the larger society.

Bi women. For lack of a better word, "original" means published first in BiWomen.

News about new or existing Bi support groups or organizations.

News specifically about or affecting bi women and men.

News about or affecting the queer community.

Here are some factors affecting the decision of whether or not to print:

Length. They say length doesn't matter? Well, in this newsletter it does. The shorter the better! We have 12 pages in which to cram a zillion things. If you really want something included, consider keeping it short. 200 words or less is great for newsy items; 800-1000 is OK for feature articles, though there can really be only two or three features per issue. And announcements of 75 words or less can always be squeezed in somewhere.

Focus. Bi women are the focus of this newsletter. Even though our lives include straight women, lesbians, transgendered women and men, straight men, Bi men and gay men, the newsletter is Bi women space.

Timeliness. Even though an amazing, wonderful (or terrible) event may have happened recently, there are more amazing, wonderful events just around the corner. The March on Washington, Pride Parade season, Bi Fest, "gays-in-the-military," same-sex marriage becoming legal in Hawai'i, Colorado's Amendment 2, . . . Sometimes the need to spread the word about something coming soon takes precedence over the (occasionally) long discussions about an event that has passed.

Thanks to all of you who send items to BiWomen (via e-mail, snail-mail and sneakernet!). PLEASE CONTINUE TO DO SO!!

Beginning with the next issue, we will be focusing on particular subjects each issue. Please feel free to suggest topics. So far we have:

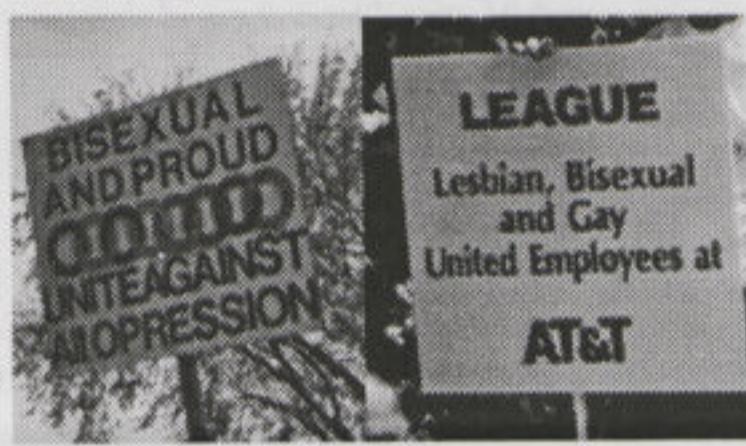
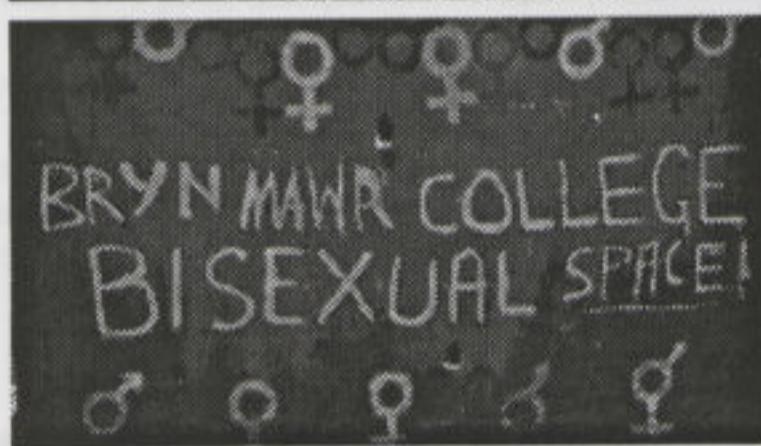
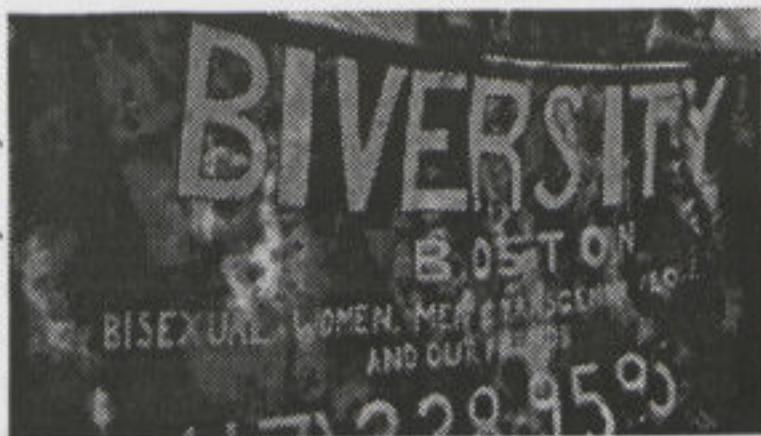
August/September issue:

Married Bi Women. Women in committed primary relationships with men.

October/November issue:

Bi Women and Gender. Identity, attraction, orientation.

Thanks for subscribing, and keep those cards and letters coming!



Did you go to the BiNet meeting? The Bi Conference? The Party? Write an article for BiWomen! (Preferably 1000 words or less...)

Lost and Found

Found at either the Bi Conference or Celebration, (April 24) or the BiNet USA Annual Meeting (April 23): Red umbrella, pair of Ray-Ban sunglasses in case, pair of wire-rimmed sunglasses without case, black cloth bag (says "Paris" in pink) containing some clothes, Lee blue denim jacket, Calvin Klein brown jacket with brown flannel shirt inside.

To claim, send (1) a more detailed description of the item, (2) a check for \$15 made out to Barry Saiff to cover shipping costs, time & trouble, and (3) your name, address, and phone number(s) to: Barry Saiff, 14335 Georgia Avenue #T-1, Silver Spring, MD 20906-2781

You may just provide (1) and (3) and a request for me to dispose of or donate the item to a good cause, which I will gladly do free of charge.

I will not keep these items indefinitely. — Barry

By the way, the PBS program *In the Life* will have a special broadcast covering the March (show #7). Check your local listings, or call *In the Life* at 1-800-578-4354; or write: *In The Life*, 37 West 14th Street, #402, New York, NY 10001. Here is an abbreviated listing for the Northeastern U.S.:

MARKET	STATION	CH.	DATE	TIME
Albany, NY	WMHT	17	8 May	10:00pm
Allentown, PA	WLVT	39	6 Jun	12:30am
Boston, MA	WGBX	44	1 Jun	9:30pm
Burlington, VT	WETK	33	15 May	Midnight
Hartford, CT	WEDH	24	26 Jun	10:30pm
New Haven, CT	WEDY	65	26 Jun	10:30pm
New York City	WNYC	31	20 May	9:00pm
New York City	WNET	13	1 May	Midnight
Norwich, CT	WEDN	53	26 Jun	10:30pm
Penn State, PA	WPSX	3	27 May	11:00pm
Philadelphia, PA	WYBE	35	6 May	8:30pm
Philadelphia, PA	WHYY	12	1 May	12:30am
Rutland, VT	WVER	28	15 May	Midnight
St. Johnsbury, VT	WVTB	20	15 MAY	Midnight
Springfield, MA	WGBY	57	9 May	Midnight
Syracuse, NY	WCNY	24	8 May	11:30pm
Waterbury, CT	WEDH	12	26 Jun	10:30pm
Windsor, VT	WVTA	41	15 May	Midnight

Lost: Harvard's Leadership Council's banner (after the March). Last seen with some Harvard students, mostly undergrads. If you have it, or know who does, please let me know. No questions asked; we just want it back for dances, meetings, the Pride parade, maybe the Powell protest... If you have the banner or any info, please call me, Charles Outcalt, at (617) 864-7395 (or send it to: Charles Outcalt, 45 Francis Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138). Thanks! ▼

Washington, from page 1

- East Coast Bisexual Network, Inc. (ECBN), a non-profit educational corporation which supports Bisexuals and their allies around the world by publishing the International Directory of Bisexual Groups and maintaining the International Bisexual Archives, as well as supporting the creation and growth of Bi groups along the east coast of the United States. Address: POB 639, Cambridge, MA 02140, USA.
- Alliance of Multicultural Bisexuals (AMBi) in Washington, DC, a local political and educational group dedicated to ensuring that Bisexuals are visible and celebrated in all our diversity. Address: 4431 Lehigh Rd. #377, College Park, MD 20740, USA.

The purpose of the Bi events was to support and inspire those involved through education, learning about Bisexual groups in other areas and offering workshops. The weekend of Bi events left very little time to rest up for the day-long March on Washington on Sunday. The March day itself was jam-packed with speeches, celebrities, t-shirts, buttons, civil disobedience, love, anger, chanting, nudity, sun-screen, banners, signs, etc. Although many local Bi women attended some or all of the above events, few have recovered well enough to write their own observations for BiWomen. I suspect we will see something in the next issue.

Phil Donahue: Unclear on the Concept?

by Eve Diana

New Bi Women's Support Group

A Bi Women's Support Group is now meeting in Madison, WI. Stop by the Lesbian, Gay and Bi Campus Center, 336 West Dayton, 7-8:30 PM on the 2nd or 4th Wednesday of the month.

DiversityWorks, Inc., a multicultural collective of social justice educators will be presenting two Training of Trainer Institutes on Social Justice and Diversity issues, June 6-11 and August 15-20, 1993. The Institutes are intended for educators, community leaders, human service providers, religious leaders, counselors, and administrators. Space is limited so enroll early to ensure your place. Call DiversityWorks, PO Box 2335, Amherst, MA 01004-2335 or call 413/256-1868 for more info.

I never cease to be amazed that after being out of the closet for fifteen years, I am not finished: there is always another threshold to cross. By agreeing to appear on the Phil Donahue show recently, I had the opportunity to experience coming out to several million people at once. And guess what? I'm still not done.

I found out about the show through the magic of email. I'm on an electronic discussion list for bisexual women. The Donahue people contacted Boston bisexual activist Robyn Ochs for possible panelists for their show. She posted their request to the list. "Wanted: monogamous married couple, one partner bisexual, one heterosexual." Hmm. Sounds like me and John. I called John, who was in California on business. Woke him up; in his groggy state he readily agreed to do the show. A lot of closed office doors that day while we were each interviewed over the phone by the show's producer (to make sure we were coherent and articulate enough to withstand the famed Phil assault). A few hours of shaky waiting, then the phone call: we're on!

I had some misgivings about doing a national show, but decided it was worth it for the opportunity to reach such a large audience. There was potential for it to be a sleazy experience, but I also felt Donahue has *slightly* more integrity than some of the other daytime talk show hosts, so we decided to take the risk. And of course, the performer in both of us was dying to do it.

I made dozens of phone calls to notify friends and relatives to watch, or at the very least, bite the bullet and read their VCR manuals so they could tape the show. We also spent hours anticipating every idiot question we might get from the audience and Phil and lobbing them at each other.

I got lots of advance support and advice from everyone: be yourself, breathe, don't use jargon, keep your eyes open (I have a tendency to keep

mine squeezed shut on camera), sit up straight. The best came from a friend who is an attorney in Los Angeles: after subjecting me to a relentlessly obnoxious cross-examination, he said, "Don't ever feel you have to be defensive about who you are."

There were to be six people on the panel: Robyn Ochs (bi-activist extraordinaire), my friend John Murdzek and me, (monogamous married couple, one bi, one straight), Lani Ka'ahumanu (single bi woman), Michael Szmansky (gay man who fell in love with a woman and now identifies as bi), and Ann Northrup (lesbian activist), supposedly there to represent the gay and lesbian community's point of view towards bisexuals.

We were flown to NY the night before and limo'd to the Drake Hotel (not quite as elegant as the commercials would have you believe). At check-in we received a sheet telling us we could spend \$50 each for dinner and \$20 each for breakfast. No long distance calls allowed. Even though I come from New York originally, I was absolutely appalled at the prices the hotel charged for the room and meals; the Donahue show paid for it all, but the waste sickened me anyway. Of course, it's one of those places for people with expense accounts; no one spends their *own* money, which is why you pay five times what something is really worth.

I didn't sleep well that night. I got up about 5 AM and turned on the television. I half dozed and slipped in and out of panic dreams. I was only half awake when I heard the first teaser for the upcoming show, something like: "Bisexuals: loathed by the gay community; shunned by straights..." The commercials appeared intermittently all morning, and all had a negative tone, casting bisexuals as the pariahs of society. This did not help my nerves or my digestion.

We had been instructed by the show's producer not to contact the other panelists beforehand; Donahue did not want us to appear rehearsed. We chose to ignore this request and did whatever we felt was necessary to prepare for the show. We all had breakfast together to lay ground rules and discuss how to deal with issues that might come up: hostile audience members or callers, Phil's tendency to interrupt, as well as give each other the benefit of experience in this sort of situation (several of us had done talk shows before). We basically agreed to support each other and to present a united front. And to try to enjoy ourselves.

The show sent limos to take us all to the studio, a huge waste since we could have walked there in half the time it took in Manhattan traffic. We all tried to pile into one car, but were ordered to each wait for our own (more scheming to keep us apart).

Donahue continues on next page

Couples Needed

The Fenway Community Health Center seeks men and women who have been sex partners during the past year for research interviews on health and sexual behavior. Men also need to have had sex with another man in the past year. Each will be interviewed separately and confidentially. Participants also receive free HIV antibody counseling and testing.

Help us learn how to protect your health.

To learn more about the study, call: (617) 267-0849 (locally) or (800) 331-2684 (out of state).

Donahue, from previous page

Once at the studio, they put Ann (the token lesbian) in a separate dressing room. They had asked her specifically to discuss why the lesbian and gay community dislikes and distrusts bisexuals, and they didn't want her consorting with the enemy before the show. They weren't aware that Ann had no intention of trashing us, and had already decided to focus on what we have in common rather than our differences.

They got us to the studio an hour before the show, which aired live at 4 PM. We introduced ourselves to the other panelists and we all pretended we were meeting for the first time. They had sandwiches, sweets and beverages waiting in our dressing room, but we were too nervous to eat. First thing, everyone signed their life away on a release form. Then one by one, we were summoned off to Makeup.

While waiting in the chair for my cosmetic enhancement, I could hear someone discussing us across the hall over a portable phone: "John Murzdikek (they always screw up his name) and Eve Diana? Which is her first name and which is her last name? They're the married couple. He's definitely straight and she's the bisexual. Robyn Ochs? She's taught classes on bisexuality. Not sure if she's bisexual herself." I was trying to discretely eavesdrop but the man with the phone walked away.

The makeup lady looked me over and said, "Oh, another one who doesn't believe in makeup!" (Yeah, that's me — Nature Girl.) I told her to do whatever was necessary but as little as possible. She covered a few zits and put a little blush on me and some lipstick, which I rubbed off as soon as I got back to the dressing room (baby girl pink — yechh). I was grateful to be having a good hair day.

Back to the dressing room. We could hear the audience filing in. I sneaked off to the ladies room a few times, and had a great time listening to them discussing what the topic for the show might be. One woman said she hoped there would be a celebrity guest like John Travolta. Have we got a surprise for you, lady.

The producer who had interviewed us by phone came to the dressing room to prep us. She was very revved up, and gave us a speech about not clamping up on her, that this was our show and to make the most of it. She could have saved her breath if she'd realized how hard it would be to shut us up once we got on stage.

We met with Phil only briefly — he dropped into our dressing room five minutes before we went on the air for a pep talk. I'm embarrassed to admit that I reached for my camera as soon as he came into the room, just like any other groupie. In person he was very much the person you see on the air — a bouncy cheerleader type.

Donahue continues on next page

Duality

by [redacted]

I was brought up Earthy Crunchy. My family, for a while, lived off the fish of the lake and the plants of the field. My mom made our clothes, my dad biked two farms over for our daily milk, and our daily bread was made by my father's hands. All this installed in me a deep inner longing for . . . store-bought, pre-sliced, packaged white bread, topped with home grown, full flavored tomatoes and cucumbers. Which got me weird looks from both sides of the school lunch room table.

My family always had either plenty of money or none at all, mostly none at all. My family had a home computer before most of friends families did. And I had to bike to school in a foot of snow because we could not afford a car, in a city with no public transportation. So now I can survive on ten dollars a week or easily blow a few hundred in a weekend.

I was given a doll house that my dad built, and endless kits for building doll house furniture by my mom. I equally loved playing with my dolls and building things with a little tool kit I had as a child. I collected endless mounds of frilly night-clothes and dresses, worn over my skinned knees. I fell out of trees, swam all summer, and played all the boys games, to go home and crochet a new dolls dress. Dad taught me to cook, mom taught me how to drive a nail in straight, I was always a butchy femm or a femmy butch.

So, for me, it's not all that strange to identify myself as bisexual. It isn't duality, two halves fighting each other for mastery. As is the rest of my life and my self-definitions, it's me as a whole, experiencing all the good things that life has to show me. I look at people, intent on drawing up lines and definitions for themselves, and I can only think of all that they deny themselves in their fear and ignorance.

After all, just because you may not like humus on enriched white bread, don't tell me I shouldn't like it either. ▼



Solitary: By Choice or Chance: is a quarterly journal for those practicing spiritual traditions alone while seeking dialogue and spiritual development through communication with others who share a similar solitary Pagan path. Solitary Box 6091, Madison, WI 53716.

Lori Covington is working on a study of women's experiences in male/female relationships as part of her Master's thesis project at University of Illinois. She needs women of all sexual orientations over the age of 25 to answer a questionnaire which takes about 15 minutes. The surveys are confidential and results will be available in August. Write: Lori Covington, 226E Education, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL 61820, or call 217/244-0822.

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Donahue, from preceding page

He's very tall, has beautiful blue eyes, lots of nose hair, and makes great eye contact.

We were hustled out to the studio, which seemed much smaller than I'd imagined. The audience had been "warmed up" and gave us a big round of applause as we sat down.

To give you an idea of Phil's agenda, here are his opening lines: "Lemme tell ya, *BISEXUALS HAVE A PROBLEM!*" (Long pause, lots of laughter) "They get discriminated from within the so called 'straight community' as well as the gay community. *A lot of gay people* are upset at bisexuals. No, not all of them, but a lot of them!"

I was immediately grateful for all our preparation. The hour went *extremely* fast. It was actually only 45 minutes once you subtracted the commercials. The audience was very energetic, bombarding us with questions, right through the commercial breaks.

There were many issues we would have liked to address in that short period of time, and it felt as if we really didn't get past the basics. Phil tried to speed us along past the monogamy issue, which I think was a mistake. By the questions people were asking, it seemed that many folks were really struggling with the concept that anyone can be both bisexual and monogamous. Contrary to popular belief, the two are not mutually exclusive. But because our *sexuality* is what people tend to focus on, they assume that anyone who is capable of attractions to both men and women must also need to have sex with one or the other or both constantly.

It's really very simple. Bisexual people who decide to commit to one relationship are no different from someone straight or gay who makes that same commitment. I don't deny my attractions to other people; I choose not to act on them. When a straight couple announces they're getting married, does anyone ask them how they could possibly choose one person over the other billion people in the world? Of course not. Any choice a person makes — what job they take, what they eat for dinner, whom they marry — involves passing by other opportunities. It's always a leap of faith, no matter what your orientation.

The other confusion seemed to be about defining people by their *relationship* instead of by who they are. Sexual preference is not defined by the organs of your current partner; if it was, people who were celibate wouldn't have any orientation until they were in a relationship. Monogamy, open relationships and celibacy are options for

everyone, but should not be the criteria for judging your orientation. I've been bisexual all my life; being involved with a man doesn't make me heterosexual, nor does it invalidate my attraction to women, nor does that in turn diminish my commitment to my relationship with John. They are both parts of who I am, but one does not define the other.

We were able to keep our sense of humor, which helped, and there was only one extremely hostile audience member, who managed to voice every homophobic stereotype about gay people that I've ever heard. And although she was vile (and some suspect she was a plant), she deserved to be heard and acknowledged, since she was echoing the ignorance and concerns of many people. And of course, she managed to look very foolish without any assistance from us.

I found it interesting that the audience really seemed to like John and me, especially John. I know we're likable people, and John is especially skilled at using his humor to make an issue seem less threatening. But I also suspect the audience were able to better hear what we had to say, because by their standards, we at least appeared to be a "normal" couple. I think part of the reason they responded so well to John, unfortunately, was because he is straight. It's a plus because they did listen to him and I think learned something, but a minus if they listened to him only because he was the token heterosexual on the panel.

It would have been nice if we could have gotten beyond Queer 101. But it was hard enough to keep the show on track and even cover the basics. One woman asked why I wasn't wearing a wedding ring, which was a great opening to discuss our marriage and the choices we've made (we had a pink triangle on our wedding cake, a very political ceremony, and chose not to get a marriage license). Although these decisions most certainly relate to my being bisexual, raising them on the show would have diverted attention from the primary issue. Besides, in my experience, talking about the license alone can keep people screaming for hours, and that's a whole 'nother show. I did, however, state that I felt that wearing a wedding ring encourages an assumption of heterosexuality, so I chose not to wear that particular symbol.

I'm not happy about allowing the deception that we have a "real marriage", according to the traditional definitions, but I'm also aware that because people thought that, they were more willing to listen to us. Distasteful, but true. Just as they were more willing to listen to John because he's a straight man. I'm sure if Phil knew that we're not legally married we wouldn't have been invited to be on the show at all.

People unclear on the concept: many straight folks in the audience felt far more threatened than I'd expected — as if even talking about *our* orientation meant we were judging *their* heterosexual-

Donahue continues on next page

Did you hear the one about the BI scientist?

SCIENCE is interested in publishing major articles on gay and lesbian scientists. As a part of the effort, the magazine's editors are looking for "good stories" about, say, gay and lesbian role models in the sciences, or researchers whose sexual orientation interfered with their academic or career advancement. Bis in the sciences with stories they think might be helpful can contact the National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals, Box 91803, Pasadena CA 91109.

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Donahue, from preceding page

ity. People kept reminding us that without straight people we wouldn't exist, as if we were preaching an end to heterosexuality.

Phil Donahue was a disappointment, not only in his attitude, but in his affect: his behavior was disoriented and his attention inconsistent. He referred constantly to his cue cards but asked questions that didn't even remotely pertain to the discussion. My first thought was that he's just been doing this too long, and after 25 years he couldn't distinguish one show or panel from another anymore. He definitely appeared ill-prepared and ill at ease. Good thing we didn't need any invitation from him to speak up — we could have done the show without him.

The show ended much too soon. We were allowed to stay and chat with the audience only a few minutes before they hustled us back to the dressing room. Phil came back to congratulate us and pose for photos. I really hoped to get a shot of Phil getting kissed on the cheek simultaneously by both a man and a woman, but I couldn't set it up before he zoomed out again. We hung out for a half hour eating and shmoozing, and then we were escorted to our waiting limousines to go to the airport. We did get a nice picture of me at LaGuardia Airport, standing in between the signs for the men's and women's restrooms with a perplexed look on my face.

Overall, I've had great feedback from people. If anyone had a negative reaction to the show, they haven't conveyed it to me. My family loved it, including my sister, despite the fact that I jokingly referred to her on the show as "hopelessly heterosexual". My mom was recovering from surgery, but was able to catch the show from her hospital room. Apparently, far more people watch Donahue than I'd realized. I've heard from relatives, long lost friends from high school and college, and from colleagues. It served as a wholesale coming out.

Some memorable interactions include the couple in the first row who just didn't get it, and insisted that if I was involved with John and no one else, then I *must* be heterosexual. After a few go-rounds of trying to explain the separate concepts of bisexuality and monogamy to

them, they hit us with the big question they'd obviously been dying to ask: If I fell in love with another woman — yes, they understood we were monogamous, but, if I fell in love with another woman — would the three of us go to bed together? Sigh...

Another woman asked me how I handled going into a crowded room; was I attracted more to the women or to the men, or to everyone? I tried to explain that I'm attracted to individual people, not their gender — I'm most definitely not attracted to everyone I meet, simply because I have the capacity for attraction to both men and women. She did come up to me after the show and apologized. She said she really wanted to understand and hoped she hadn't offended me. I told her the point of the show was to educate and that I was glad she'd asked. It gave me a better sense of how deeply ingrained it is that bisexuality and homosexuality is about sex, rather than about people.

On our way home, John and I stopped at our neighborhood grocery store to get a newspaper. Tony, the elderly Italian man who owns the store rushed out and hugged us both, and saying over and over, "Eva & Johnny, Godda Blessa!" He got a huge kick out of the show, although we're not clear whether he understood the topic or not.

The best response came from my Aunt Phyllis and Uncle Milton in the Bronx — I was not out to them. First they raved about how good I looked and what a handsome husband I had. We finally got around to the subject matter, and I asked Phyllis what she thought. Her answer? "Gay, shmay, as long as you love each other!" ▼

CHILDCARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Women's Center in Cambridge (46 Pleasant St.) is looking for volunteers to do childcare for the Battered Women's Support Group on Wednesday nights (7-9pm) and/or for other occasional meetings (days and nights). If you would like to help mothers and children and have fun at the same time, please call Judy or Jen at 354-8807.

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ALL Bi, MYSELF by Kathrine Douthit



Calls for Submissions:

Bi the Way: An Anthology of Writings on Bisexuality

Bi Writer and New York activist Sheela Lambert is editing a new anthology of bisexual writings. For info, contact Sheela Lambert, 720 West 173 Street, New York, NY 10032. Telephone (212) 928-3558.

Bi Erotic Fiction

Writing sought for anthology. For more information, contact either

Drew Lewis via e-mail at ALEWIS@D55000.DAC. NORTHEASTERN, or write Karen F. at 99 Newtonville Ave., Newton, MA 02158.

Women's Relationship with their Physical Selves: Fiction, poetry, and photographs sought. Submissions accepted until August 1, 1993. For guidelines, SASE to Shirley Coe, Submissions Editor, Papier-Mache Press, 795 Via Manzana, Watsonville, CA 95076.

Iris: A Journal About Women seeks quality fiction (2,000 - 8,000 words) and poetry (3 to 5 max. per submission, please) of interest to a feminist audience. Send mss. with SASE to Kristen Staby Rembold, Fiction Editor, or Judy Longley, Poetry Editor, Iris, Box 323 HSC, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22908.

MIT Offers Limited Benefits to "Spousal Equivalents"

Beginning in June, MIT will offer health and dental benefits to the same-sex partners of employees and dependents of partners.

The benefits will be the same as those currently provided for the spouses and dependents of MIT employees, according to Vice President Constantine B. Simonides, who made the announcement.

Mr. Simonides said MIT decided to offer the extended coverage to same-sex partners and the dependents of partners "to address a recognized inequity in access to benefits by gay and lesbian employees who cannot at present include same-sex partners under family coverage options available to married heterosexual partners."

Benefits offerings, plan enrollment requirements and procedures will be administered for same-sex partners in as parallel a manner as possible with those offered for spouses of employees. For this reason, the term "spousal equivalents" will be used to define same-sex partners who are eligible for benefits coverage.

Health and dental benefits eligibility will not be extended to unmarried opposite-sex couples at this time, said Mr. Simonides. "Because most opposite sex couples have the option to marry, the issue of access is less compelling," he said. He also referred to opposition by several of MIT's health plan carriers to extending coverage to unmarried opposite-sex partners.

And, from the May 4, 1993, Boston Globe:

Gay couples to get benefits at Clark

The trustees of Clark University voted last weekend to extend a range of benefits to the domestic partners of gay and lesbian faculty and staff. Personnel director Lynn Olson, who recommended the policy change, said in a statement that the university hoped the benefit would help them recruit and retain faculty and staff. Qualified gay and lesbian couples will be entitled to health and dental insurance, tuition waivers, and bereavement leave, officials said.

Start making those wedding plans!

The Supreme Court of the State of Hawai'i has finally issued a ruling today on the right of same-sex couples to get married. In the case of Baehr v. Lewin, it has ruled that denial of marriage licenses to same-sex couples constitutes discrimination on the basis of sex, and has remanded the case to a lower court. In order for the state to deny marriage licenses to same-sex couples, it will have to

show that: a) there is a compelling state interest which is served by not issuing the licenses; and b) that there is no other way for the state to serve that compelling state interest than through denial of marriage licenses. "Compelling" means that "strict scrutiny" will be applied to the state's claim — a legal standard which will be nearly impossible for the state to meet for any foreseeable claim. The upshot? The fight for marriage licenses for same-sex couples in the State of Hawai'i is 95% won! What is interesting is that the basis for the court's decision had nothing to do with any of the arguments presented to it. The decision was based not on privacy rights or equal protection, but on sex discrimination. This is an angle which has never before in US courts gone anywhere in securing GLB rights. The good thing about it is that sex discrimination is a much stronger and more established principle on which to base the decision than any of the other ones they could have used. This is one of the most important decisions for US GLB people ever! Note: the plaintiffs still have thousands of dollars in legal debts incurred in this fight for all of our rights. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to: Hawai'i Equal Rights Marriage Project, Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 1820 University Ave., Honolulu, HI 96822. Checks should be made out to H.E.R.M.P.

If they win their case, same-sex marriages will be *completely legal* in the State of Hawai'i, with full rights. Furthermore, since all states are bound to recognize each others' marriages, the spark for nationwide marriage rights has just been lit.

I would urge people to call the state attorney general, as well as the governor, and let them know how much they stand to gain in the way of wedding/honeymoon tourism if same-sex marriages are legalized here.

The Attorney General's phone number is: (808) 586-1500.

Other relevant numbers:

808-586-0034 - Governor John D. Waihee, III, State Capitol, 5th Floor, Honolulu, HI 96813

808-586-0006 - Governor's fax

808-539-4910 - Judiciary

808-539-4919 - HI Supreme Court, P. O. Box 2560, Honolulu, HI 96804

808-539-4928 - HI Supreme Court fax

My personal advice would be to sweet-talk these people as much as possible. If you come across as obnoxious, they will blow you off as just another arrogant Mainlander. Tell them how much you'd *love* to get married and take your honeymoon in Hawaii. Money talks, and the hotels aren't doing too well these days.

Keep hope alive!

Mahalo, J. F.



BOOK REVIEW

Close To Home: Bisexuality & Feminism

(Edited by Elizabeth Reba Weise, Seal Press, 1992, 330 pp., paper \$14.95).

Reviewed by Marcia Deihl

(Continued from the last issue of *BiWomen*)

Bisexual women have also defended against accusations that they have been known to leave women for men, who, after all have more material goodies. Amanda Udis-Kessler explodes these defenses with another idea. Even when women do leave women for men (of course it happens), who is to blame? Not bisexual women, but heterosexism, a word which she uses to connote the combination and intersection of heterosexist and sexist oppression. Citing the ideas of Lenore Norrgard, she reminds us that we live in a system which rewards dominant class men and their wives, no matter how liberal these men are.

"Their" wives. Is that why men are shooting women more and more these days—the most deadly example of male objectification? According to various June 1992 Boston Globe articles, victims of domestic violence are being killed at the rate of one every eight days; two years ago this figure was one every twenty-two days. An article dated June 5 quoted a researcher who stated, "The reason most often given by men for the killing of their wives was their 'inability to accept what they perceived to be a rejection of them or their role of dominance' over their victims." How much clearer can they get? In fact, marriage itself is based on dominant class male needs, and for that reason, Norrgard asks us to think carefully when we're framing current domestic partnership proposals. (You have to have a job to get health benefits and you have to have investments to worry about a will.) These issues are also addressed in Elizabeth McKeon's "To Be Bisexual and Underclass" essay. Are women supposed to simply ignore their libidos for political purposes? Not any more than gay men and lesbians should have to cover up their desires in order to reap the dominant culture's "rewards." The editor declares, "Desire will out," and indeed it has made many of us come out, even as bisexuals. However, most of the women in the book agree with Adrienne Rich's concept of "compulsory heterosexuality": that no woman can be truly free to choose a man until all women are free not to choose a man.

Racial metaphors are often used for sorting out the status and loyalties of sexual "half-breeds." As a white woman, I try not to use them, for I cannot pretend to know the inside of a woman of color's experience. There are dif-

ferences, in that bisexuality can "strike" at any time in a life span and it involves some degree of choice, regardless of the issue of "passing." Margaret Mihee Choe, a Korean-American woman, discusses bisexuals as the "Asians" of sexual politics (neither "black" nor "white," hence invisible, unless there's trouble). In one of my favorite essays, Brenda Marie Blasingame (an African-American Jew) adds richly to this "double-bi" discussion, as does Amanda Yoshizaki.

Why is it that women more than men are "struggling" (read: eye-rolling, sighing, crying, stomping out of meetings) with bisexuality? Are men, as a "caste," simply more sex-oriented and less emotional and theoretical? Perhaps, but it's also because they never had the Sisterhood Experience of the women's liberation movement. Historically, this movement came after and learned from the civil rights, free speech, anti-war, and New Left movements which preceded it. Sisterhood was powerful, and therefore its perceived betrayal is also powerful. But was "women's" culture really lesbian culture? Why didn't we call it that? I believe that unsung lesbians have always produced the bulk of women's culture and politics, but are bisexuals to blame? Or is it the institutions of heterosexism and sexism? By insisting that woman-loving (past, present, or future) does not exclude man-loving (ditto), have bisexuals indeed betrayed the gay and lesbian community? Personally? Politically? Both? The recent "hasbian wars" (between lesbians and former-lesbians) are simply the now visible toxic waste of questions that the Sisterhood never dealt with twenty years ago. Because this new book focuses on the intersection of bisexuality and feminism, it is an important step in showing how the personal and the political are connected in a new way. It celebrates the individual stories of each woman (the various colorful houses on the block) but it also soars above the village like a bird, and looks down to see the big picture, the first step in forming a unifying theory and planning a strategy for change which is mutually beneficial to all stripes of feminism: socialist-feminists (the primary oppression is class privilege), radical lesbian feminists (the primary oppression is male privilege), and liberal feminists (the problem is lack of access to the current system).

If we are interested in social change, we need a theory of analysis and strategy which includes both men and women and both gay and straight folks. We also need to address the oppressions and privileges which arise from class, race, age, and ability. To do this, we need theories of multiple oppressions and strategies for coalition-building, which rule out guilt but acknowledge privilege as present.

Close To Home continues on next page

Queers of Colour

Draw! Cartoon! Tell stories with pictures!

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A network for bi pen pals is forming to meet the needs of bis who are not quite ready to meet face-to-face. This network does not emphasize love and romance (dating networks are available elsewhere). Send in your name, address, and interests, and a mailing list of like-minded people will be forwarded to you. Donations are requested to pay for a quarterly newsletter updating names and addresses. For more info, write *Lilith*, PO Box 5781, Athens, Ohio 45701-5807.

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Such a deal!

Closer to Home, from preceding page

tense. Since bisexuals spend our daily lives at the intersections of sexual politics (gender and sexuality) we are in a unique, but not necessarily vanguard, position to come up with a fresh view on progressive feminist theory. This book does it with flying colors. The twenty-three essays are divided into three sections: "Definitions," "Principles and Practice," and "The Question of Community." The women range from long-time activists to women born when I joined my Bread and Roses consciousness-raising group in 1970. Since they share a bisexual identity (except for Rebecca Ripley, a lesbian with "naturally curly brains" who interviewed six of her lesbian friends), they reach many common conclusions. Since I'm a Theory Queen, the third section excited me most: Rust, Udis-Kessler, and Kathleen Bennett. Beth Elliot's "Holly Near and Yet So Far" is a funny/sad indictment of our star-tripping ways, bis and lesbians alike. Other essays address the sexual politics of women's body image (Robyn Ochs), the cultural limitations of being a successful sex object (Vashti Zabatinsky) or a conservative provincial heterosexual (Diane Anderson), the experience of being an incest and rape survivor and reclaiming an active sexuality with men (Sharon Gonsalves), and behavior and identity in different cultures, which allow but do not name bisexuality (Rebecca Ripley and [REDACTED]). Behavior and identity are important issues for our current discussions because "lesbians who sleep with men" seem to get much less criticism from the women's community than monogamous bisexuals who sleep with women. (Think about it.) I was floored by the wisdom, good humor, and gratitude of bisexual women half my age (Rebecca Kaplan, Diane Anderson, and Susanna Trnka). I rest assured that the future of the bisexual feminist movement lies in spunky minds and capable hands.

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1971. The Women's Liberation Decade. I heard the New Haven Women's Liberation Rock Band and it changed my life. I dropped out of the academic track and helped to form The New Harmony Sisterhood Band with five other women. Boston women's music wasn't there; we needed it, so we made it up ourselves. Politics worked. 1981. Closed for Alterations Decade. One year after breaking up, the band recorded my song "I'm Settled." The chorus proclaimed, "No hubby, no house, no car, no kid, and no regrets for what I didn't or I did," and was written in celebration of my thirtieth birthday at which time I asked for household goods and family heirlooms (promised to me "when you're settled"). Although it appealed to all kinds of women, it was a nice vague liberal statement on sexuality. This was because I was concentrating on some backlogged emotional questions. Politics didn't work for them; personal work did.

First I needed to know why I had chosen to be single again. Then I needed to know whom I desired, regardless of my "Sally Fields" syndrome with the lesbian feminist community ("They like me, they really like me!!"). I realized that choosing a sexuality for others' approval was not that different from the political false consciousness (not to mention personal "co-dependence") of the late-1960s women who typed and filed for the New Left Boys' Club. But I felt like I'd never be "straight" again. So I searched for a bisexual support group in Boston. It wasn't there; I needed it, so after my second annual try at a Cambridge Women's Center bisexual discussion group, I found six other women (The BiVocals) and we made it up ourselves. The following year we founded the Boston Bisexual Women's Network. After ten years of organizing within the larger gay and lesbian community, we, like "gays in the military" (a term which, not so incidentally, includes bisexuals) are refusing to be invisible where we've always been—on the front lines of a higher cause. And our work is beginning to pay off. Our name appears for the first time in a national march this coming April 25 at the March for Gay, Lesbian and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation in Washington, DC on April 25, 1991. Closer to Home. Both of the groups described above answered a need which I can only describe as a spiritual itch. Of the six women who played in the New Harmony Sisterhood Band between 1974 and 1980, one remained heterosexual and married, one remained lesbian, and the other four changed their sexual preference once or even twice. Although this is not a scientific survey, I think that this pattern is not atypical of that era. My latest spiritual itch sent me looking around for a mixed queer group where I could give back energy to a community which had given me so

Closer to Home continues on next page

Closer to Home, from preceding page

many inner gifts. As a self-styled 1991 "berdache" (shaman/artist/queer), I was particularly outraged by the homophobia and heterosexism evident in the underfunding of AIDS research and in censorship of the arts.

For the Next Seven Generations

I needed that decade of rest and re-evaluation in order to keep my inner integrity and yet work for the larger good. I had learned that personal choices had political implications, but did not solve oppression in and of themselves. More importantly, I had learned that political solutions did not always help with personal challenges. Even though it's fashionable to roll our eyes over Gloria Steinem's latest "personal" book or to knock recovery programs, I know three women activists who died by their own hands. Like me, they may have been helped by extra tools of the heart and spirit, after mastering the tools of the mind. It simply took me longer than some to balance the rage and the joy in a way which would fuel me for the long haul. Be it mainstream or radical, politics ain't no picnic. My feelings and my popularity aren't

the point. And as a feminist bisexual, my enemies are not the lesbian and gay friends I spend political and social time with (even when they vote me down), but those guys in the camera at the Clarence Thomas hearings, and the systems which uphold them. Of course I have lobbied for including the "B-word" in marches and organizational titles, but I'd rather earn it as a side-effect of respect than as a power-play victory. I hunger for this book's caliber of analysis and strategy in future discussions with the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community. I'm glad that the young ones coming up get to see a "Box C" much more often than I did. If they have a crush on a Miss Hobson (my gym teacher) and a Mr. Balch (my social studies teacher), they can grow up and find less conflict between desire (inner empowerment) and positive political work (outer empowerment). It may even save some lives. I'll end with a quote from Diane Anderson (p. 172): "Bisexuality is my sexual orientation. Lesbianism is my sexual preference. Feminism is my religion. If that still leaves me with contradictions, then I'll live with it."

CALENDAR, from page 12

June 20 ♦ Sunday

Biversity Canoe Trip and Potluck Picnic. We will rent canoes, paddle to somewhere peaceful and share a bi potluck picnic. Info: (617) 338-9595.

June 27 ♦ Sunday

Bisexual Soul. An Experiential Exploration into the celebration of the deeper wells of our bisexual natures. Crane Beach, Ipswich. Afternoon until sundown. Info: Hannah Lermann, Wild Places, Rockport (508) 546-7736. Fee for this event is by donation.

June 30 ♦ Wednesday

Discussion about the International Bi Conference in NYC. What will be Boston's involvement in the planning and how you can get involved. 7-9pm at the Bi Office. Info: (617) 338-9595.

July 1 ♦ Thursday

Bisexual Writers Group. See June 3.

July 11 ♦ Sunday

BBWN Potluck Picnic on the Esplanade, 12 noon. We're meeting at the Arthur Fiedler head statue, near the Hatch shell (raindate is the 18th).

July 14 ♦ Wednesday

BBWN Introductory Meeting. A safe place for women to connect with the bi community. 7:30 - 9pm at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., (Central Sq.). Info: (617) 354-8807.

BBWN planning meeting. We will be talking about outreach and BBWN's 10 year old birthday party. If you want to get involved in the Birthday celebration this is the meeting for you. 7-9pm at the Bi Office. Info: (617) 338-9595.

July 16 ♦ Friday

BiWomen submissions deadline for the August/September issue!

July 17 ♦ Saturday

BBWN finds the G-Spot (a dance spot, that is . . .). 10pm. The Loft (in the alley that runs behind Club Cafe, which is on Columbus near Berkeley St.)

July 19 ♦ Monday

BiWomen newsletter production volunteer night. Type articles, read newsletters, open the mail, make phone calls. FREE MUNCHIES AND DECAF PROVIDED!! Please come. 7-9pm at the Bi Office. Info: Kathy at (617) 236-5978.

July 26 ♦ Monday

BBWN newsletter stuffing volunteer night. Free anecdotes, gossip, unsolicited advice, jokes, fun! Help us get the newsletter out to those who need it. 7-9pm at the Bi Office. Info: (617) 338-9595.

August 1 ♦ Sunday

Bi Space. See June 6.

August 3 ♦ Thursday

Bisexual Writers Group. See June 3.

August 10-15 ♦ Tuesday-Sunday

18th Annual Michigan Womyn's Festival. All womyn camping event, on 650 acres, over 300 workshops; Special accommodations for differently-abled womyn, womyn of color, over 50, in recovery and with children. Info: WWTMC, P.O. Box 22, Walhalla, MI 49458. (616) 757-4766.

Ongoing Events

▼
(continued from p. 12)

Tuesdays:

Bisexual Women's Rap Group. 7:30pm-10pm at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Central Square, Cambridge. All women welcome. June topics: 8-Scattergories; 15-Post Pride Party Potluck; 21-Music Show & Tell; 28-Maintaining relationships with straight women. Info: (617) 354-8807.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Freedom Trail Band

Rehearsals. Concert and marching band, no auditions. 7:30-9:30pm. Location and info: Kathy (617) 236-5978.

Wednesdays:

Say It, Sister! radio show on WMBR 88.1 FM (first on your FM dial!). 7:30-8:30pm. Info and topics: (617) 253-8810.

First and Third Tuesdays:

Bisexual Issues Rap Group at the New Haven Women's Center, 614 Orange St., (corner Bishop) New Haven, Conn. Please call to specify wheelchair access or ASL interpreting requirements. Voice (203) 776-2658, TTY and voice (203) 397-2381.

Saturdays:

New England Gay and Lesbian (NEGAL) Country Dance Group. 8-11pm, beginners lesson 7:30. All dances smoke- and alcohol-free. Open to all gays, lesbians, bisexuals and their friends. First Church of Jamaica Plain, corner Centre and Eliot Sts., JP. On MBTA Green and Orange lines. \$5. Info: Janet, (617) 522-2216.

SUBSCRIBE

The Bi Office

is the Bisexual Resource Office, 95 Berkeley Street, Suite 613, Boston. (617) 338-9595

Ongoing Events

Mondays:
Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group for Women. At the University of New Hampshire. 6-7pm, conference rm. 201A, Health Services. Info: (603) 862-3823.

▼
▼
(for more, turn to page 11)

Subscribe to BiWomen!

To start a new subscription or renew your current one, fill out the form below.

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Cambridge, MA 02140

CALENDAR

June 3 ♦ Thursday

Bisexual Writers Group. Open to all bisexual writers, whether published or not. Attendees are invited to read their material, contribute constructive criticism, bring information on publications soliciting material, and share tips on writing in general. 7-9pm at the Bi Office.

June 5 ♦ Saturday

Hot, Swingin' Pride, Swingtime Boston's Gay/ Lesbian/ Bisexual Swing and Ballroom Dance, featuring the hottest dance orchestra in town, Cheek to Cheek. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. near Harvard Sq., Cambridge. \$6, no smoke or alcohol. Free food and drink. 9pm to midnight, **free dance lesson at 8:15pm**. Info: (617) 661-1792.

June 6 ♦ Sunday

Bi Space. A friendly discussion space to meet other bisexuals and talk about bisexual issues. 7-9pm at the Bi Office. \$2 donation is requested to help pay for rental of the space.

June 7 ♦ Monday

BiFest Planning Meeting. This is the last scheduled meeting before BiFest begins. If you missed all the previous meetings, come to this one and talk to us about how you can help out. BiFest brings in money to help keep your networks alive. Please come to the meeting and volunteer for some part, no matter how small. 7-9pm at the Bi Office.

June 9 ♦ Wednesday

BBWN General Planning meeting. 7-9pm at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant street, (Central Sq.). We will be discussing BBWN's connection to ECBN, Boston Pride and BiFest and other network fun stuff.

June 11 ♦ Friday

▼ BiFest opening night!

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge. Call 338-6565 for exact locations.

6:30pm Welcome/registration

7:30 - 11:30pm Videos in 2 rooms

7:30 - 9:30pm Bi reading

9:30 - 11:30pm Bi erotic readings

Sliding scale \$10 - \$25 for Friday and Saturday events. Sunday events: \$6-15 for one day participation. Work exchange available.

June 12 ♦ Saturday

Annual Pre-Pride Brunch (open to all women, men and transgender people) 9:30am to 11:30am at the Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston Street (Copley Square) \$5 Donation suggested as fundraiser for BBWN.

Boston Pride March, 12 noon. Starts at Copley Square. Meet outside Community Church at 565 Boylston Street for more info on where to line up.

▼ BiFest/Pride Dance

9pm at MIT, Cambridge. Stratton Student Center (2nd floor), 84 Mass. Ave., (across the street from the main pillared building on Mass Ave.).

Donation requested. Call 338-9595 for more info.

June 13 ♦ Sunday

▼ BiFest events

MIT Stratton Student Center, 84 Mass. Ave.

10:30-11am Registration and light brunch

11am-12:30pm Workshops

12:30 - 1:30pm Lunch provided

1:30 - 4:30pm Community meeting (note there will also be a bi-related discussion happening at this time as well)

4:30 - 5:30pm Closing

June 19 ♦ Wednesday

Bisexual Safe Sex Workshop. Through the Living Well Series at the Fenway Community Health Center, Room 201. 6:30-8:30pm. Info: Rob at 267-0900, ext. 287.

June 19 ♦ Saturday

Monthly Bi Brunch. Meet at 11am at Au Bon Pain in Harvard Square in Cambridge. Nearest T stop is Harvard on the Red Line.

CALENDAR continues on page 11

Bi Women

The Newsletter of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network

Coming soon...

BBWN's 10th Anniversary!

We're planning special events and a special issue of the newsletter. Call the Bi Office to find out how you can be a part of it!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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Printed on recycled paper

Married, Happy, and Bisexual

by Kathrine Douthit

Finding yourself married can be alarming. One day you are following in the laced footsteps of your foremothers, declaring to the world (and the government) that you LOVE THAT MAN! — and the next you are staring with a fixed gaze at the women in VOGUE and the women cashiers in the same aisle, and ...you have fallen in love, all over again. Besides asking the questions that most people ask themselves when experiencing feelings for the same sex for the first time (Am I unstable? Is this normal?), you also ask yourself after 7 years with the same loved one, "Does this mean I've fallen out of love?" or "Does this mean our relationship is a failure?" Then you panic, because the thought of not loving the man you love so much makes you feel terrible. (You're too worried to see the contradiction in this last thought.)

The fact is, some of us bisexual women married men—in love, religion, tradition, or naivete. We are married—a lot of us happily—and bisexual. We may or may not have discovered our bisexuality until we were already married. Some of us would like to relive our romantic decisions, making silent vows while thumbing our noses at the patriarchal financial institution of legal marriage, but our weddings are past, and to divorce purely for political reasons (however romantic it may seem) would be expensive, twice as bureaucratic, and perhaps just a change of fashion in the long run. Being married isn't exactly politically correct these days, for logical reasons, but it is really only a technicality in the care and defense of human rights, including our own.

I would like to offer support to those who are happy in their marriages but who feel both attracted to and threatened by their bisexuality because they are married. (A woman who is unhappily married for whatever reason, or who is 'happily' married to a man who would not tolerate his wife's sexuality needs a tremendous amount of support. I can only say to such women

Married continues on page 6



HELP!

BiWomen needs a new editor.

The current editor also does the production and layout, but it has become just too much for one person.

We need someone to gather articles, make some phone calls, coordinate volunteers, pursue advertising, and compile the calendar. TRAINING PROVIDED! Learn about editing and graphic production from a professional. Connect with other Bi women. Help the network keep its newsletter rolling.

Call (617) 338-9595 to volunteer. If you can help in any way, please call!

Bi Community News . . .

Volunteers of the Month

Thanks to all the women who have helped the network by volunteering in the Bi Office, writing articles for the newsletter, stuffing envelopes, making phone calls, going to meetings . . .

Liz Highleyman •
Gail Z. • Blanca Alcaraz • Ilta •
Eve Diana •
Charnan Bray •
Stephanie Berger •
Laura Sachs •
Claire M. • Susan Rooney • Robyn Ochs • Ann Goglia •
Laura Perez •
Kathrine Douthit •
Kathleen • Susan S. • Ms. Anonymous

...and to the women who helped stuff the last issue, and who helped with BiFest, the BBWN Pride Brunch, and who did so many other behind the scenes chores:

THANK YOU! Your help is very much appreciated!

BiWomen is published bi-monthly.

Pooped Editor:
Kathleen Hepburn

Major League Helpers:
Stephanie Berger

Ilta

Kathrine Douthit

Eve Diana

Susan Schiefelbein

Fennel

Marcia Deihl

Laura Sachs

Laura Perez

Robyn Ochs

The East Coast Bisexual Network Presents: BiQuest '93

Who: The East Coast Bisexual Network (ECBN) is an incorporated, non-profit corporation based in Boston with the mission of eliminating the oppression of bisexual people through networking, support, and education. We are seeking a diverse and representative group of approximately 30 people with an interest in the future of ECBN to come together for a Vision Quest planning meeting. The weekend is being organized by Cathy Cummings with the support and assistance of the ECBN board: Alan Hamilton, Robyn Ochs, Laura Marina Perez, Michael Beer, Bobbi Keppel, and Susan Rooney.

What: BiQuest '93 is planned as a weekend-long Vision Quest /planning meeting to look at the past, present, and future of ECBN. Participants will explore, play, listen, and interact with each other. The qualities necessary for a Vision Quest include creativity, commitment, focus, wisdom, respect, and the open-hearted willingness to question, learn, and be attentive. We request that each participant bring these qualities to the extent that they are able.

When: We will meet the weekend of Aug. 20-22, beginning at 9pm on Friday night, Aug. 20. Saturday morning, we will have breakfast from 8-9:30am. The meeting will be starting promptly at 10am. The rest of the schedule will be outlined in the confirmation packet. The weekend will end by 4pm on Sunday, August 22.

Where: The weekend will take place at the Earthdance Retreat Center in Plainfield, Mass. Earthdance is an informal and somewhat rustic space, with shared bathrooms and sleeping spaces on mattresses or futons on the floor. Wheelchair access is limited.

Why: BiQuest '93 will focus on some of the issues that have surfaced as ECBN has grown and evolved over the years. Discussions of cultural and racial diversity, gender parity, volunteerism, paid staff, funding, conflict resolution, and more have often been the topics of intense discussions in our communities. We hope to offer a space to ponder some underlying questions: Who are we as individual bisexual people and as a community? What are our purposes in coming together to support an organization such as ECBN? How do we strike and maintain a balance between local, regional, national, and international concerns? How are we nurturing solutions to the conflicts that arise in our working together? What changes, if any, do we need to be implementing? How can we better facilitate different channels of communication? What other questions do we need to be addressing?

How: We will be providing a fairly structured environment with a variety of different exercises that allow for creativity. To be successful, this weekend will require cooperation, a spirit of adventure, and trust. Come prepared to surpass expectations of yourself and others. Be ready to play hard, listen well, and make creative breakthroughs in problem solving. As a general guideline, please develop and maintain a basic trust that everything will work and that people are doing their best.

Cost: The cost of meals and accommodations for the weekend is \$50-100 per participant, sliding scale. The \$50 figure will just cover our costs; any additional amount you are able to contribute will go toward scholarships for those who may wish to participate and find the expense of the weekend financially burdensome. Please indicate below if you will require a scholarship in order to participate in the weekend.

PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

If you are interested in participating in BiQuest '93, complete this form and return it with a check made out to ECBN, or a scholarship request (see below), postmarked no later than **August 6** to: BiQuest '93 c/o Cathy Cummings, 330 Dennison Street, Highland Park, NJ 08904. For further information, or if you cannot meet this deadline, contact Cathy Cummings at (908) 246-0662 between 8am and 11pm, or Laura Marina Perez at (617) 282-3537 after 8pm, or leave a message. If you leave a message, please be sure to include when we can return your call.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ (day) _____ (evening)

Best time(s) to call _____

Will you require a scholarship in order to participate in the weekend? _____ yes _____ no

If yes, what dollar amount of assistance are you requesting? _____

Due to the size of the facility, limited budget, and the working nature of the weekend, we will not be providing child care during BiQuest '93. We are committed to bringing together as diverse a group of participants as possible, and will work to decrease barriers to participation as best we can given our resources. The primary language of the meeting will be spoken English. If you require different or additional languages (ASL, Spanish, etc.) in order to attend the meeting and participate fully, or if you are able to provide translation services, please indicate here:

PLEASE TELL US MORE

To help us bring together a diverse and representative a group of bisexuals, please attach a separate sheet of paper and try to answer these questions:

Which aspects of your self-identity are most important and relevant to what you have to offer ECBN during our planning process? In what communities are you active? What makes you want to offer your time as a participant in this Vision Quest weekend?

Please write about your experiences at a recent ECBN event, and at an event five or ten years in the future. For example: What values are expressed by the community? Who is attending? How does it feel to be there? What is the goal of the event? What do you get out of participating? Is it primarily a political or a social event? What kind of setting is it? For the future scenario in particular: Are there similar events happening elsewhere? How much money do we have in the bank? What's the size of the community? How have we handled the aging of the community?

If possible, please do your best to type this section. We will duplicate these papers to share during the weekend.

Boston Pride From Two Wheels

Stephanie Berger

I grew up in a small town on Long Island, NY where going to a parade was a big thing. Which might explain my reaction the first time I saw, or should I say experienced, the Moving Violations Motorcycle Club (MVMC) leading the Boston Pride Parade in 1988. The excitement, the noise, those shiny machines and not to mention the women sitting on them. I knew from that first moment, if I ever got a bike (which at the time seemed very unlikely) I had to be one of those women.

Well sometimes fantasies do come true. And this year one came true for me. I learned to ride last summer, and bought my bike, a bright red Yamaha Radian (600cc), in the Fall, and became a prospective Club member shortly after that. I became a full member right before Pride. Besides being a fun and accepting group of women I find it incredibly empowering riding with and learning with other women riders. One of MV goals is to create a safety conscious environment for women riders regardless of sexual orientation.

The Friday before Pride found me on my hands and knees next to my bike changing the oil, scrubbing the tire rims, and shining the chrome so it shimmered in the sunlight. The next task and almost as equally important was getting the hair dyed to match the bright red gleam. I mean come on, this was my first Pride as a member of a "family of bykers" and it had to be done right. It's not everyday I get to be part of a leading a parade.

Saturday morning, clouds clearing, leathers on and I was off. I don't think I was really prepared for what to expect. It was fun hanging out, seeing old friends, checking out the bikes, cruising and of course posing for pictures. As the parade was about to start and we had all lined up, about 50 or so bikes I felt like I was coming out all over again. It's like that feeling when you're a kid watching a parade and the fire engines go by and you're all screaming "blow your siren" and they do, and you know they're doing it for you. It just felt so good to be OUT and celebrating. The crowds are screaming and we're leaning on our horns and waving. It felt like this is what the celebration of pride is about. The festiveness of it all. But not only were we celebrating the richness and vitality of our queerness, Pride Day; but our pride as women bykers. I know, every woman riding took as much care as I did getting ready for the celebration. I'm sure riding means something different to all the women there, but on that day we rode in unity as proud lesbian, bisexual and heterosexual women bykers. It felt exhilarating to be a part of it all.



Stephanie and Liz at Boston Pride

Okay, not to sound too bright eyed and bushy tailed but let me let you in on a little trade secret. You can't imagine how hot it is riding an air cooled machine only going 5 miles an hour wearing leather chaps and a jacket, or how going that slow for so long, in that heat, messes with your engine, or the sunburn and dehydration or the fumes.

Would I do it again you ask.... you bet your ass and I already have the outfit picked out.



DEADLINE
for the
October/
November
issue:

Photo by Jan Brittenson
Friday, September 10,
1993

Please provide
submissions on paper
(typed or hand-written)
or on floppy disk (PC
or Mac), and include a
name and phone
number if possible.

If you do not want
your name published,
please tell us!

Otherwise we may
assume that you do not
mind being listed as a
contributor.

You may contribute
anonymously, or just
use your first name, if
you wish.

Send articles, calendar
entries, letters, art,
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Cambridge, MA 02140

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BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

The Boston Bisexual Women's Network is a feminist, not-for-profit collective organization whose purpose is to bring women together for support and validation. It is meant to be a safe environment in which women of all sexual self-identities, class backgrounds, racial, ethnic and religious groups, ages, abilities and disabilities are welcome. Through the vehicles of discussion, support, education, outreach, political action and social groups related to bisexuality, we are committed to the goals of full acceptance as bisexuals within the gay and lesbian community, and to full acceptance of bisexuality and the liberation of all gay people within the larger society.

The 1993 Conference Celebrating Bisexuality

Reported by
Liz A. Highleyman

**Submissions sought for
Switch Hitter: a New Zine
by and for Bisexual
Women and Men.**

**Switch hitter with a serious
attitude problem seeks
same to contribute to
slightly twisted new publica-
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anything else you think
would photocopy well.
Please enclose a 25-word
description of yourself and
your favorite slang term
for bisexual. Bisexual writ-
ers and artists get priority
for publication; all submis-
sions will be considered.
Deadline for Issue #1 is
August 15, 1993. Not sure
what to send? Write me -
we'll talk. Send all inquir-
ies to Editrix, Switch Hit-
ter, 955 Massachusetts
Avenue #148, Cambridge,
MA 02139.**

The 1993 Conference Celebrating Bisexuality brought together over 550 bisexuals and their friends during the weekend of the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation.

The bi events began Friday with the BiNet annual meeting. Though well planned, the meeting suffered from having too much to do in too little time. Working groups formed to discuss issues such as media, policy statements, and organizing for Stonewall-25. The meeting bogged down on the issue of the group's name (a recurring debate, with some claiming that it's imperative for "multicultural" be part of the name, and others arguing for continuity and brevity). On Friday evening an erotic reading was held, featuring erotic poetry and prose and a film starring bisexual goddess Annie Sprinkle.

The conference ran all day Saturday at American University. The morning plenary featured Loraine Hutchins, a long-time bi activist, speaking about life in DC and the tension between local and national organizing; Warren Blumenfeld, a stalwart gay ally; and an inspiring performance by singer Cathy Winter. The afternoon plenary featured Starhawk, a bisexual witch speaking on the sacredness of the earth and the erotic; professor and activist Elias Farajaj'e-Jones speaking on the interconnectedness of oppression; and performers Judith Kate Freedman, Shielah Mabry, Ben Silver and Amanda Udis-Kessler. This plenary was one of the most inspiring I've ever attended, largely because I share their radical political visions.

The conference featured a mind-boggling array of 55 workshops in nine tracks, including such intriguing-sounding topics as the history of the bi movement in the 1970s, a Crone's Circle for women over 50, Beyond Gender, a bi-feminist

perspective on non-monogamy, the politics of marriage, several safer sex workshops, and Starhawk's Ritual for Empowerment. The Sex Positivism 101 workshop, put together by BiNet's sex positivism task force was an excellent participatory discussion about how we are affected by living in an erotophobic society and how the bi movement might contribute to changing this. The workshop on bisexual health care activism discussed such things as educating health workers and researchers about bisexuality, biphobia in ACT UP, and the need for health information targeted at people who have sex with both men and women; the workshop spawned a new group, the Bisexual Peoples' Healthcare Activist Coalition (BiPHAC).

The conference was well-organized and smoothly run (although things were considerably more hectic behind the scenes!). Special thanks are due to the many organizers and volunteers, especially the DC organizing committee, the Boston program committee, conference producers Barry Saiff and Michael Beer, and intern Brett Beemyn.

Saturday evening featured a dance/celebration, which included a special appearance by the Safer Sex Sluts. The turnout was good, and the dance provided an opportunity to meet old and new friends and to relax and socialize, an opportunity which seemed all to rare during the hectic weekend!

On Sunday I started the march with an anarchist/anti-militarist contingent. My plan had been to drop back and march later with the bi contingent, but the size of the crowd forced the organizers to shorten the route in midstream (much to the chagrin of those of us waiting along the original route!). Reports (and photos!) indicate that the bi contingent was large and probably one of the most diverse, not to mention interestingly clad and/or unclad.

The rally on the mall proved rather dull and repetitive, at times resembling a giant pep rally for gays in the military. The majority of speakers apparently forgot that it was a gay, lesbian [lit and bi] march, and bisexuals were rarely mentioned. Lani Ka'ahumanu, the sole bi-identified speaker, was placed last on the schedule, but gave a rousing speech that hopefully woke some people up and made them think.

All in all, the weekend as a whole was most enjoyable. What a strange and wonderful feeling to be surrounded by so many queers (though I felt quite odd in the presence of my male SO [significant other]!). If you missed the event this year, or if you're eager to do it again, the 1994 bisexual conference will take place the last weekend of June 1994, in conjunction with the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, the march on the UN for gay rights, and the Gay Games. New York City will no doubt be even more crowded than DC, so plan early! If you'd like to help organize the bi events for the weekend, contact East Coast Bisexual Network at (617) 338-9595. ▼

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Bi Community Meeting in June

Reported by Laura Perez

At the tail end of Boston BiFest '93, we continued with our Bisexual Community Meeting which was cut short by the snow storm three months ago in March. There were approximately thirty or more people in attendance. The incomparable Stephanie Burger and equally imitable Laura Perez co-facilitated the meeting with the support of all who came to give their input regarding the status of our bisexual (dis)union.

What follows is the meeting's brainstormed list of the issues we face as individual bisexual (or bifriendly) people and as a larger group of beautiful bis.

Group Discussion

- * accessibility to bi communities (all cultures)
- * clearer understanding of various bi groups
- * bi direct action via artists i.e. "attack art"
- * issues for bi parents
- * gender accessibility
- * relations between bis and transgendered
- * bi invisibility i.e. March on Washington
- * lack of vision; clarification of issues
- * hate crimes, violence towards/against bisexuals
- * attacks on people and their (gender and) sexual identity vs. their behavior
- * working on bi issues as bi issues; not always in agreement or in synch with gays and lesbians
- * What is ECBN? (the East Coast Bisexual Network)
- * What is BiNET? (the National Bisexual Network)
- * specific bi group(s): bi-focused or bi-centrist
- * regular forums/workshops to do anti-oppression work
- * what is our political line?
- * legislative issues & local political races
- * our work fueling national agenda
- * multi-issue work with primary focus and use of different tactics
- * channels of communication with gay/lesbian and straight communities
- * school issues re: sex education and homo/bisexuality
- * forums to work separately and together with gays/lesbians
- * our overlapping issues [w/ gays/lesbians] i.e. same sex marriages and nature/nurture debate
- * Stonewall 25 (next year!)
- * Gay/ Lesbian communities' stance on "born that way" theory

From our 1st meeting

- * breaking the silence taboo around oppression
- * interconnectedness of racism and sexism
- * generational differences in "coming out" process
- * relations between bi ♀ and bi ♂ and lesbians/gays
- * organizing in rural/urban settings
- * political agenda
- * networking strategies

As our meeting was processed, the group decided to focus on two particular issues: what is ECBN? and what is BiNET?

Alan Hamilton, president of the ECBN board, presented the his/herstory of this 501(c)3, non-profit organization. It's a group that now works towards bi liberation through being a funding source among other things. It has sponsored bi conferences and retreats and offered scholarship money for people of color to attend the National Bisexual Conference in 1990. ECBN was developed in response to a crisis and community needs. ECBN also publishes the International Directory of Bisexual Groups once a year (used to be bi-annually). There have been informally appointed representatives to its steering committee. Because of the increase in activity, ECBN had to create a board (a hierarchical structure) to make decisions as opposed to regional reps. on a steering committee. ECBN is now trying to make the board more broad based.

Linda Blair gave information about BiNET which spurred discussion of the election process of reps., which seemingly wants to be redone. We also discussed how we can get more people involved by the giving out more information about BiNET's existence, what it is and what it does.

A group of wonderfully dedicated bi folk then volunteered to organize the next bi community meeting to discuss these issues (ECBN, BiNET and ...) at length. YEAH!!!!!!

See the Calendar (page 12) for info about the next Bi Community Meeting. ▽

ACTION GIRL NEWSLETTER, a guide to zines, books & women. For a copy, send SASE to: 543 Van Duzer St., Staten Island, NY 10304.



CHILDCARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Women's Center in Cambridge (46 Pleasant St.) is looking for volunteers to do childcare for the Battered Women's Support Group on Wednesday nights (7-9pm) and/or for other occasional meetings (days and nights). If you would like to help mothers and children and have fun at the same time, please call Judy or Jen at 354-8807.

After years of living as hetero (I'm 29), I've opened the closet and am peeking out. I'd like to form a small group (4-6) of biwomen in similar situations to share support, experiences and encouragement.

Interested? Call Heather 617-776-3681 (detailed message OK). Also: out and comfortable bi wanted to lead/facilitate.

NEW BI GROUPS

A Bi group is forming in Athens, Georgia: BiNet-Athens, "Serving Bisexuals and Biphiles [bi-friendly non-bisexuals] in the Classic City." Info: BiNet-Athens, P.O. Box 2486, Athens, GA 30612-0486.

A new bi group has formed out of Falls Church, Virginia: The Bi Organization of Virginia (BOVA). "Putting the fun back into dysfunctional! The group is a spinoff of the established Bi Network of the Washington, D.C., area. Info: BOVA, P.O. Box 6580, Falls Church, VA 22040, Phone: (703) FLY-TROT [359-8768].



Married and Bi, from page 1

that I hope they will search out help from the lesbigay community and that the community will give them all the love and support it can give.) I would also like to offer some reassurance to the various unmarried members of the lesbigay community — we married women are not spies from the straight world, but rather sisters in the same fight. Let us leave categorical denunciations to the "other side."

I am amazed at how many women lament, "I love my husband, but two months ago I met this woman!" or "I am bisexual, but I'm married and I love my husband and children." When I came out to some of my family members, twice I was asked, "Are you getting a divorce?" "NO!" I gasped with horror. "My marriage has never been better!" And that, not so ironically, is the truth. The same negative reasons which led many of us to get married (for example, the fear that our love might not be true love if we weren't prepared to marry) are responsible for the panic we feel being married and bisexual.

Married bisexual women face a lot of fears. We are afraid that our relationships with our husbands may be destroyed by our sexuality. We are afraid to face the criticism of both straight and lesbigay communities. If we want to be monogamous, we worry that our feelings for the same sex are not valid. If we want to have relationships with women and be nonmonogamous we fear the criticism of nearly everyone, since nonmonogamy is still very much taboo in every part of our culture. The choice seems to be "married heterosexual" vs. "unmarried bisexual". If this has not convinced you to run out and get a bargain divorce or to ride off into the sunset, a loner with a black hat, then you're still with me.

If your marriage has been a stable, loving, supportive, and honest one, the discovery of your bisexuality — which is a victorious step in being the person you truly are — will not endanger your relationship. It may offer a lot of complications as you decide how best to express your sexuality, but it may also offer you both a deeper intimacy. There are more choices than simply "bisexuality with separation" or "union with no bisexuality." Despite the good old adage, sometimes you can have your cake and eat it too.

Monogamous Dogamous or Polygamous Pigamous?

If you decide to be monogamous with your husband — you still 'get to be' a bisexual. It is difficult for many of us to feel valid about our sexuality (married or not) if we remain monogamous with a man. But our

bisexuality is far-reaching and is not limited directly to our sex drive. There are so many ways to express bisexuality: political activism for lesbigay rights, partaking in groups for bisexuals, bi-women, or even bi married women, and self-expression in art and fantasy.

Nonmonogamy may be taboo to most of America, but then, so is bisexuality. And rather than use the negative sounding "non"monogamy, we might use the word "polyfidelity" which is occasionally used in the bisexual community. If you are in love with your husband, and have fallen in love with a woman, does the first love make the second love impossible? Or does an already blooming love make another love all the more strong and likely? I am still not sure why this suggestion remains so shocking even to most bisexuals, since the elements of such a relationship are the same ones used to build a relationship between two people. Polygamy is not synonymous with promiscuity. Indiscriminate consecutive monogamous relationships are easily as dangerous emotionally and physically as careless polygamous relationships. A polygamous relationship is as safe and loving as you and your lovers set out to make it. It has its complications (not the least of which is getting a date as a married woman) and it can be a test of perseverance and love, but it is a rewarding and truly viable alternative to monogamy in the expression of bisexuality.

Monogamy, nonmonogamy, marriage, divorce, or the single life — these should involve active choices, not passive situations. Marriage need not dictate one above the other. The panic we feel often comes from believing we have no choice but to continue a pretend heterosexual life. But think of the choices that have faced so many married men and women: "It's me or the Cat!" or, for a lot of women in the past fifty years, "It's me or your career!" Most beloved spouses are less expendable than the cat, and most cat-owning couples work out some kind of compromise. Bisexuality itself is no threat to marriage, as marriage is not necessarily a threat to bisexuality. The strength of our relationships and the fulfillment of our sexuality rely on the more basic elements of love — bisexual, homosexual, or heterosexual — love which is honest, patient, supportive, and passionate.

Finally, a plea to unmarried bi women who are still unsure of their married sisters. We understand your skepticism, since we have felt very skeptical of ourselves and our decisions. We're nervous to tell you we're married, like bisexuals who are nervous being out as bi to gays and lesbians. Like those nested Russian dolls, we're in a closet inside of a closet. We are not invading the lesbigay community with heterosexist values. Whatever our reasons for getting married, and however much our feelings and political ideas have changed since, we are no less bisexual. We need the support and the trust of the whole lesbigay family. ▼

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Best Friends

by Eve Diana

Beauty fades, and sexiness wears thin after awhile, but to be married to someone who makes you laugh every day, ah, now that's a real treat! Eve Diana and John Stephen Murdzek are delighted to announce their intention to wed. We invite you, our family and friends, to witness our vows and participate in our celebration of love and friendship.

My best friend John and I decided to throw a party to celebrate our first six years together and our hopes for the future. We made every effort to create an event that epitomized our values. Quotes from our ceremony are italicized:

Eve is my best friend in the whole wide world. And then some. So when I introduce her as "my friend," I'm reminding myself, and anyone else who cares to notice, that we were friends before we became involved, that that matters to me, and that I don't want to take it for granted now that we've fallen in love, too. My cousin, Lorraine, once told me that she not only loved her kids, but she liked them, too. Well, I like Eve. I like her a lot.

I'm bisexual; John's heterosexual. We wanted a ritual where we could crow about how good being together has been, and how good we expect it to be in the future. We wanted to honor our personal politics, my bisexuality, and our friendship, and we wanted to express all this in a way that our witnesses, from Great Aunt Sadie to Queer Nation, would be able to hear and understand. We wanted to laugh, dance to our favorite music, eat good food, and basically share the gala event of the century with our favorite people.

In some ways this is a mixed marriage. I'm Jewish; John is not. John's a baseball fan; I'm not. More obvious, but still relevant, I'm a woman, and John is not. A woman and a man getting married may seem commonplace, but we do not take this step lightly. This is a very big deal for us.

We are both very aware that the option of getting married is not available to everyone. If we were both men, or both women, or until recently in this country, of different racial heritage, our choice to hold this ceremony would not have been so universally applauded. We see getting married as a privilege, but we're not doing it simply because we can. We most certainly do not take it for granted. We are most grateful that we can sit here and celebrate with all of you, and we have both committed ourselves to making this privilege available to anyone who chooses it.

We hope this will be a metaphor for our lives together, to not take each other or our friendship or our love for granted.

Planning a non-traditional event has its advan-

Eve & John

Best Friends

November 14, 1992



To say, "I love you" means -
let the revolution begin!

tages; you don't have to follow anyone else's rules (remember that, no matter what the caterer tries to tell you). No rings, no engagement period, no bridal shower, no minister or JP, no father handing me over like a football, no aisle to float down, no white dress. We did propose to each other one evening for fun: John gave me a baseball cap to seal our declaration, and I gave him a Red Sox 1986 American League Pennant Pin (in its original box!).

I started making lists, reading bridal magazines and lesbian wedding manuals. I shopped for a wedding gown wearing my "NOBODY KNOWS I'M A LESBIAN" T-shirt. We planned a two week honeymoon in San Francisco, including reservations for "Cruisin' the Castro", a historical walking tour of gay San Francisco.

We batted the legal question around for a long time. To me, getting married and obtaining legal sanction for my relationship were two very separate issues. Reading Marilyn Murphy's article, "Mother of the Groom" in *Are You Girls Traveling Alone? Adventures in Lesbianic Logic* (Clothespin Fever Press, 1991) drove the point home. She lucidly describes legal marriage as an exclusive club that awards privileges to its membership, a status denied those deemed unworthy. To our mutual relief, we agreed: no license.

Once this gnarly issue was decided, I thought the rest would be a breeze. Ha! We continued to refer to our "event" as a wedding. We were soon to learn just how sacred an institution this is. Many heterosexual friends were horrified that we dared use the words "marriage" and "wedding" when our union was not to receive state sanction. Queer friends were leery of the fact that I was getting married until they learned that it wouldn't be legal. Even my mom, my wonderful open minded march-with-me-at-Gay-Pride-mom, struggled mightily with the concept: "Why are you getting married if you're not making it legal? It's not really a wedding then, is it?" But she, along with everyone else, took a deep breath and trusted our judgment.

Although we tried to put our individual stamp on every aspect of the event, we did feel obligated to uphold one nuptial tradition: providing

Best Friends continues on next page

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Such a deal!

Best Friends, from previous page

the perfect wedding souvenir for our guests. After much debate and research, we decided on commemorative refrigerator magnets, something that would be both practical and tacky.

Our ceremony opened with a rafter-shaking rendition of "Amazing Grace". We'd arranged the chairs in a circle: *We've chosen a circle instead of the more traditional rows divided by an aisle because we wanted to eliminate the segregation of "his" and "hers" - you're all "ours" now - and because we wanted you to be part of the ceremony, not spectators of one.* Our "officiant" was our dear friend, Andy Anderson, who used to run a chili and sausage cart at MIT (site of our first lunch date). Our cake was decorated with a pink triangle and a baseball, to symbolize two things we're passionate about.

When Eve and I first became involved, we both worked in the same department at MIT, and it didn't feel safe to publicly acknowledge our relationship. We adopted a signal that Rock Hudson had used in public to secretly tell his lovers, "I love you." The signal was

three fingers. We no longer work together, but we still say goodbye to each other every day with three fingers for "I love you."

Getting married is a leap of faith. We expect that we will both grow and change over the years, and we have confidence that our relationship will endure through those changes. In fact, we assume that our friendship can only improve as each of us improve individually.

*Our final vows were excerpted from "Sexuality, Love, and Justice," in *Our Passion for Justice: Images of Power, Sexuality, and Liberation* by Carter Heyward (Pilgrim Press, 1984):*

Because I love you, I am invested in us as a team. I feel the significance of who we are together, of the fact that you matter / I matter / and we matter. Because I love you, I will struggle for you / myself / and us.

Because I love you, I value your passion and your compassion, your rage at injustice. Rage and compassion, far from being mutually exclusive, belong together. Each is an aspect of your honesty - and your integrity - because your rage is entirely appropriate to your own experience and the state of justice in our world.

We are constantly striving to live with integrity; integrity, in which personal lifestyle and political conviction converge; in which friendship, passion, love, and justice flow into a common stream; in which we begin to understand that true love can be a most revolutionary act.

Because I love you, I proclaim that you are not mine, but rather your own.

Because I love you, I will advocate your rights, your space, your self, and I will struggle with you, rather than against you, to claim our power in the world.

Because I love you, I will sing with you, cry with you, laugh with you, dance with you, and work with you to re-create the world.

To say "I love you" means - let the revolution begin!

Andy closed our ceremony with these words:

And now, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me, by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, I pronounce you best friends, with tenure. Let the revolution begin! ▽

Couples Needed

The Fenway Community Health Center seeks men and women who have been sex partners during the past year for research interviews on health and sexual behavior. Men also need to have had sex with another man in the past year. Each will be interviewed separately and confidentially. Participants also receive free HIV antibody counseling and testing. **Help us learn how to protect your health.**



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Bi Women and Men

by Liz A. Highleyman

Why would a bisexual woman choose a relationship with a man? I've heard many a "hasbian" describe her newfound attraction to a man as something that "just happened" against her better judgement, and many bi women fall for specific people, regardless of sex. But are there "political" reasons why a bi woman might choose a relationship with a man because he is a man? (Note: I'm using 'sex' to mean biological anatomy and 'gender' to refer to social role. While sex and gender are not binary, it can't be denied that how we're brought up and treated by society is strongly influenced by whether we are perceived to be women or men. Unfortunately, this article leaves out the boths, neithers, and in-betweens.)

I believe a bi woman can justifiably make such a choice. Relationships with men do not correspond with allegiance to the patriarchy. It is a well-known tenet of feminism that "the personal is political." For me this means that my fight against sexism and for women's equality must be carried out in all facets of my life. I could indeed choose to have relationships only with women, but it's important to me to work at creating relationships with men that are egalitarian and non-sexist. Struggles in the public arena just don't have the same salience for me if they are not part of the most intimate areas of my life. Some cultural feminists assert that sexual and romantic relationships with men are inherently oppressive to women and that women only engage in them due to coercion. This view sees women as victims with no ability to make real choices. Adrienne Rich has discussed "compulsory heterosexuality," claiming that a woman must have the option (socially, economically and in all other respects) to love a woman before she can truly *choose* to love a man. I believe the opposite is true as well. We must acknowledge the possibility of healthy, egalitarian relationships with men, so that our relationships with women are truly a choice, not just a means of escaping male oppression.

While some women maintain relationships with men for economic or other reasons, many others choose to make men their principle romantic and political allies. For a woman of color, a relationship with a white woman is not necessarily more egalitarian than a relationship with a man of her own culture. A woman may be well justified in making her alliances based on similarity of race, ethnicity, class, nationality, disability, etc., rather than sex/gender. And these close alliances may extend into the sphere of romantic and sexual relationships.

Bisexuality adds a valuable perspective to my relationships with men; having had relationships with women, I can better judge which struggles

are due to sex/gender inequality and which are due to more individual differences.

In my relationships with men it is crucial to me to maintain my own name, space, financial independence, and my own network of friends and political allies. Certain things — like who does the housework, who pays the bills, and who initiates sex — take on a greater importance than they would in a relationship with a woman. I sometimes have to make a special effort to avoid thoughtlessly falling into a stereotypical woman's role in relation to a male partner. I do not want the social and cultural "privileges" that come from being in a relationship with a man, "privileges" which are often purchased at the expense of the woman's autonomy and available only to members of the favored classes. I do not identify myself publicly as part of a man/woman couple — I am me, not as So-and-so's girlfriend or wife. At the same time, I actively engage in the effort to decouple legal privileges from relationship status, which should not be the business of the state, church or other authorities.

I believe women and men can change, that we are not prisoners of our biological sex or social gender role. If I did not believe this, my anti-sexist activism would be pointless. In "Challenging Patriarchy Means Challenging Men to Change," (Z Magazine, February 1991), bell hooks points out that a radical feminist social transformation requires change on the part of both women and men. While I have no obligation to educate men, making such an effort in my personal relationships with men I care about is an important part of my life and my activism (and if you want something done right, sometimes you have to do it yourself!).

Hooks claims that "Revolutionary feminist activism must avoid at all costs investing in simplistic forms of gender separation that offer women the luxury of not having to engage in ongoing confrontation and struggle with men." For me, this struggle must be a part of my most intimate relationships in addition to the larger public struggle. I understand the feelings of bi women who want to keep their intimate relationships free of male-female power struggles...and I am more than rarely tempted to adopt this strategy myself! But I find that confronting sexism and overcoming instances of sex/gender-based power imbalance is empowering and inspiring. Making change in my personal relationships with men reinforces my belief that we can make these changes in society, and to me it is an effort worth the frustration. ▼



Bi's make yet another appearance in "Dykes to Watch Out For" by Alison Bechdel

WORTH MENTIONING:

In the July/August issue of Harvard Magazine:

The cover story is a five-page article on the University's 342d commencement, in which the speaker was Gen. Colin Powell, a vocal supporter of the policy to ban lesbians, gays and bisexuals from the military. A large protest was staged, in which 7,000 helium-filled balloons were distributed, representing the number of lesbian, gay and bisexual personnel expelled by the armed services during the tenure of Gen. Powell. The pink balloons were emblazoned with LIFT THE BAN in large black letters, and were carried by hundreds of graduates, as well as by several honored guests on stage at the commencement.

The article is in a "day-in-the-life" format, in which we follow the activities of Hillary Anger, a self-identified bisexual woman involved in the protest. Her picture is on the cover, with the title "Gay Pride Greets the General." Well, almost.

Resources

Bi Community Meeting

On June 13, 1993, a Bi Community Meeting was held as part of BiFest. It was the second in a series of meetings held to discuss the community – our needs and goals, and how we plan to achieve those goals.

The following is a list of groups that were present:

1. **Maine Bi People's Network**
c/o Bobbi Keppel, P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME 04104
(207) 879-2613
2. **Unitarian Universalist Bi Network**
c/o Bobbi Keppel, P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME 04104
(207) 879-2613
3. **East Coast Bisexual Network**
95 Berkeley Street, Suite 613, Boston, MA 02116
(617) 338-9595
4. **LABIA (Lesbians and Bi Women in Alliance)**
Mary Baxter, 69 Chestnut St., Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 492-6983 pacifist@athena.mit.edu or LABIA-TALK@athena.mit.edu
5. **New Haven (CT) Bi Women's Groups**
meets at 614 Orange St., New Haven (New Haven Women's Liberation Center) Contact: Lisa Sheehy (203) 389-8736
6. **New Haven Men & Women's Bi Group**
meets at 614 Orange St., New Haven (New Haven Women's Liberation Center) Contact: Lisa Sheehy (203) 389-8736
7. **Biversity Boston**
95 Berkeley Street, Suite 613, Boston, MA 02116
(617) 338-9595
8. **Boston Bisexual Writers Group**
95 Berkeley Street, Suite 613, Boston, MA 02116
(617) 338-9595
9. **Boston Bisexual Women's Network**
95 Berkeley Street, Suite 613, Boston, MA 02116
(617) 338-9595
10. **Womyn of Color Uniting**
c/o Laura Perez, 48 Saxton St., Dorchester, MA 02125
(617) 282-3537
11. **Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Speakers Bureau**
P.O. Box 2232, Boston, MA 02107
(617) 354-0133
12. **Biversity e-mail list:**
biversity@gnu.ai.mit.edu

(requests to liz at gnu.ai.mit.edu) 617-253-6693

(also for BIFEM-L, BISEXU-L & BIACT-L mailing lists)

13. Bisexuals at Digital (or just west of Boston)

Amy Goldman (508)486-8791
e-mail: agoldman@mr4DEC.enet.dec.com

14. BiNet USA

Contact: Linda Blair, 48 Saxton St., Apt. 2, Dorchester, MA 02125 (617) 282-3537
or Stephanie Berger (617) 666-3149
or Laura Perez (same # as Linda)

14. Effort to get Gay Community News and Outwrite '93 National Writers' Conference to include bi participation

Lucy Friedland (617) 267-5312

15. Am Tikva — Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Jewish group meets several times a month for services and programs

(617) 926-2536

For a report on the June meeting, see page 5.

CALENDAR, *continued from page 12*

September 12 • Sunday

BBWN Potluck Picnic on the Esplanade, 12 noon. See Aug. 8.

September 13 • Monday

BiWomen newsletter production volunteer night. Type articles, read newsletters, open the mail, make phone calls. FREE MUNCHIES AND DECAF PROVIDED!! Please come. 7-9pm at the Bi Office. Info: (617) 338-9595.

September 16 • Thursday

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Speakers Bureau Meeting. 8pm at the Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston Street, on the third floor, above the Small Planet Bar and Grill (formerly the Back Bay Bistro) in Copley Square. The Community Church is wheelchair accessible and is located near the Copley Green Line MBTA stop. The meeting is free and open to the public. The general Bureau meeting begins at 6:45 p.m. with the program starting at 8:00 p.m. Info: (617) 354-0133.

September 18 • Saturday

Monthly Bi Brunch. Meet at 11am at the New House of Toy, on Taylor Street in Chinatown, Boston. Orange Line to Chinatown, or Red Line to South Station.

CALENDAR *continues on next page*

CALENDAR, from previous page

September 27 • Monday

BBWN newsletter stuffing volunteer night. Free anecdotes, gossip, unsolicited advice, jokes, fun! Help us get the newsletter out to those who need it. 7-9pm at the Bi Office. Info: (617) 338-9595.

Oct 1-3 • Friday-Sunday

11th Annual U.K. Bisexual Conference. Info: c/o Box B, Hiziki, 15 Goosegate, Hockley, Nottingham NG1 1FE, England. OR BICON, c/o The Rainbow Centre, 180 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HW, U.K. Tel. [+44] 602 703553

October 3 u Sunday

Bi Space. See Aug. 1.

Oct. 7 u Thursday

Bisexual Writers Group. See August 5.

October 7-9 • Thursday-Saturday

Third Annual Conference on Sexual Assault on Campus, Nashville, Tenn. Info: (800) 537-4903. Sexual Assault Conference, P.O. Box 1338, Holmes Beach, FL 34218-1338

Looking Ahead...

November 10 • Wednesday

Diversity Training Institute and People of Color Organizing Institute. Part of NGLTF Creating Change conference (see below).

November 11 • Thursday

Race, Class and Gender Institute. Part of NGLTF Creating Change conference (see below).

November 12-14 • Friday-Sunday

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Policy Institute's Sixth Annual Creating Change, a National Conference for Gay and Lesbian Organizing and Skills Building, Durham, North Carolina. Info: (202) 332-6483; TTD (202) 332-6219, or write Creating Change, NGLTF, 1734 14th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

And in 1994...

June 17-25 • Friday-Saturday

Gay Games IV, New York City.

June 23 • Thursday

BiNet Annual Meeting, New York City.

Jun 24-25 • Friday-Saturday

International Bisexual Conference, New York City.

Jun 26 • Sunday

Stonewall 25: International March on the United Nations to Affirm the Human Rights of Lesbian and Gay People, New York City.

Nov 17-20 •

InQueery/InTheory/InDeed: Sixth North American Conference on Lesbian, Gay, and BISEXUAL Studies; University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

Reflections on BiFest/Pride Weekend

Bi [REDACTED]

I had fun. I got no sleep, was sunburned (again), and the Bi contingent was directly behind the Gays for Patty float (I hate country music), but that was just part of it all. This was my second Boston Pride, and while last year will always be my first, this year was so much better. Just the march itself was better, we had three banners, we marched in one group, there were lots of people watching on the streets, and most of them cheered us.

And Bifest. After the months of worrying and planning, it came through so well. Over the whole weekend, about a hundred people attended. Friday night there were movies, documentaries, readings both erotic and not, and great snack food. Saturday was the BBWN prePride brunch (which made much money), the march, and the Bidance. And Sunday, more great food, workshops general shmoozing and the community meeting part 2. And all through the weekend there were all the great people. Most of them bi, but not all. Old friends, recent friends, friends I hadn't seen for awhile, and brand new friends I hope to see again. In a word, community.

The great moments for me were, finally getting to see *My Father's Coming*. Hearing my erotic story read aloud. My transportation queen, and my volunteers for the BBWN brunch, all of whom saved my life. The Ru Paul float. Trying to hold the Biversity banner upright during the Die-in. Hearing all of our banners read at the reviewing stand. People cheering us. The Bi booth on the common. The great banner for the booth. My roommate, who I've never officially come out to, giving me a five minute dissertation on how the gay community is antagonistic toward Bisexuals, when I mentioned I was at the march. The DJ at the dance. Watching Nigia and Tony dance. The dance. The fact that Sunday activities didn't start until 10:30, so I didn't miss anything by showing up at 11:00. Meeting a female to male transgender person. Shmoozing at lunch. Shmoozing at the open discussion. The final dinner at the S&S. Cute people all over the place. Hearing some great dish.

Wow, no wonder I didn't get enough sleep.

cellele

Ongoing Events

Mondays:

Lesbian/Bisexual Discussion Group for Women. At the University of New Hampshire. 6-7pm, conference rm. 201A, Health Services. Info: (603) 862-3823.

Tuesdays:

Bisexual Women's Rap Group. 7:30pm-10pm at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Central Square, Cambridge. All women welcome. Info: (617) 354-8807.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Freedom Trail Band Rehearsals. Concert and marching band, no auditions. 7:30-9:30pm. Location and info: Kathy (617) 236-5978.

Wednesdays:

Say It, Sister! radio show on WMBR 88.1 FM (first on your FM dial!). 7:30-8:30pm. Info and topics: (617) 253-8810.

First and Third Tuesdays:

Bisexual Issues Rap Group at the New Haven Women's Center, 614 Orange St., (corner Bishop) New Haven, Conn. Please call to specify wheelchair access or ASL interpreting requirements. Voice (203) 776-2658, TTY and voice (203) 397-2381.

Saturdays:

New England Gay and Lesbian (NEGAL) Country Dance Group. 8-11pm, beginners lesson 7:30. All dances smoke- and alcohol-free. Open to all gays, lesbians, bisexuals and their friends. First Church of Jamaica Plain, corner Centre and Eliot Sts., JP. On MBTA Green and Orange lines. \$5. Info: Janet, (617) 522-2216.

October/November issue focus: Bi Women and Gender. Identity, attraction, orientation.

SUBSCRIBE

The Bi Office
is the Bisexual
Resource Office, 95
Berkeley Street, Suite
613, Boston.
(617) 338-9595



For ongoing events,
see page 11.

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\$30-100 _____

Send this form along with your check to:

BBWN

P.O. Box 639

Cambridge, MA 02140

CALENDAR

August 1 • Sunday

Bi Space. A friendly discussion space to meet other bisexuals and talk about bisexual issues. 7-9pm at the Bi Office. \$2 donation is requested to help pay for rental of the space.

August 5 • Thursday

Bisexual Writers Group. Open to all bisexual writers, whether published or not. Attendees are invited to read their material, contribute constructive criticism, bring information on publications soliciting material, and share tips on writing in general. 7-9pm at the Bi Office.

August 8 • Sunday

BBWN Potluck Picnic on the Esplanade, 12 noon. We're meeting at the Arthur Fiedler head statue, near the Hatch shell. Take the Red line to Charles, walk over the bridge to the Esplanade and head west toward the Hatch Shell.

August 10-15 • Tuesday-Sunday

18th Annual Michigan Womyn's Festival. All womyn camping event, on 650 acres, over 300 workshops; Special accommodations for differently-abled womyn, womyn of color, over 50, in recovery and with children. Info: WWTMC, P.O. Box 22, Walhalla, MI 49458. (616) 757-4766.

August 11 • Wednesday

BBWN General Planning meeting. 7-9pm at the Bi Office. OK, so it's summer and all. But there's work to

be done. It's BBWN's 10th Anniversary. There is a lot to talk about and to plan. Please come.

August 14 • Saturday

Bisexual Community Meeting. 2-5pm at the M.I.T. Twenty Chimneys Room, Stratton Student Center, 3rd Floor, 84 Mass. Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. Following the March and June community meetings, many people expressed interest in discussing further and in more detail our needs and goals as a bisexual community. This meeting will focus on what our issues and concerns are as bisexuals, and how we can go about meeting our goals. All bisexual people are encouraged to attend, whether or not you have attended previous meetings.

Biversity Beach Outing: Sun and Fun at Singing Beach. Meet at noon at North Station at the ticket office (by Gate 1). Round-trip ticket \$7, plus \$1 or \$2 to get in to the beach area. Suggestion: Arrive at North Station a bit early to buy your ticket! Info: (617) 338-9595.

August 24 • Saturday

Important Free Lecture: Ron Fox, Ph.D., will discuss the results of his groundbreaking study of nearly 1000 bisexual women and men. Free, open to the public. Boylston Hall 10, Harvard University (Harvard Sq. stop on the Red Line). Info: (617) 495-8476.

August 21 • Saturday

Monthly Bi Brunch. Meet at 11am at Blazing Salads on Washington Street at Downtown Crossing in Boston. Take the Red or Orange lines to Downtown Crossing.

September 2 • Thursday

Bisexual Writers Group. See June 3.

September 3-6 • Friday-Monday

Northeast Women's Musical Retreat (NEWMR), in Marlborough, CT at a private campground. Swimming, crafts, games, dancing, workshops and music on night and day stages. Performers: Heather Bishop/Sherry Shute, Melanie DeMore, Deirdre McCalla, Suede, Lucie Blue Tremblay, the Washington Sisters, Karen Williams, Choreograffiti, Nan Brooks, Alison Farrell, Robin Antoni, Julie Nicolay, Nancy Tucker, etc. Info: NEWMR, P.O. Box 550, Branford, CT 06405.

September 5 • Sunday

Bi Space. See Aug. 1.

September 8 • Wednesday

BBWN Introductory Meeting. A safe place for women to connect with the bi community. 7:30 - 9pm at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., (Central Sq.). Info: (617) 354-8807.

September 10 • Friday

BiWomen submissions deadline for the October/November issue! REALLY!

September 11 • Saturday

The Sixth Annual Provincetown Harbor Swim for Life and Mermaid Brunch AIDS Benefit. A 1.4 mile Harbor swim open to all levels and ages. Info and pledge slips: (508) 487-3684. Write: P.O. Box 819, Provincetown, MA 02657.

CALENDAR continues on page 10

Bi Women

The Newsletter of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network

Speaking Out



Many of our members and friends have been furiously writing to newspapers, magazines, organizations, and television and radio stations, getting the word out about bisexuals and bisexuality: countering myths, fighting for our rights, insisting on visibility and recognition. Here are a few excerpts:

From a letter sent to the editor of The Nation:

Greetings from the ticking bomb in the middle of the Kinsey spectrum. When I saw that the July 5

issue of The Nation was a "Queer" Nation, my heart leapt. Not only at the thought of an entire issue devoted to a radical queer politics, but at the possibility that I and "my people" might be included at last. Ah well—almost. "Most of us, alas, however attracted to the theory of infinite malleability, have been trained in a culture that regards sexual appetite as consisting of two, and only two, contrasting variations—gay or straight." (Duberman, p. 22) "... we need to construct a radically queer politics that celebrates and encourages our wild, beautiful, not-like-straight-

culture differences: the campy, the butch-femme, the androgynous, the transgendered, the sexual." (Amber Hollibaugh, p. 28). I couldn't help finishing her sentence with my pen in the margin: "and the BISEXUAL!"

In 1983, Robyn Ochs and I co-founded of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network Ten years earlier, I had cut my political teeth in 1970s Boston. My women's band, The New Harmony Sisterhood Band, played benefits for the same vibrant anti-war, feminist, anti-racist, anti-imperialist, socialist, lesbian, and gay liberation groups to which Barbara Smith refers in her valuable essay. Although we are still fighting those same

Speaking Out continues on page 8

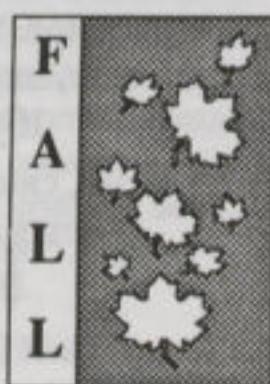


HELP!

BiWomen still needs a new editor.

Thanks to those of you who have come forward to help. Now we still need someone to take the reins. You'll have lots of help, and you can learn about design and production from a professional. It'll look good on your resume! And you don't have to be a seasoned BBWN member: new faces are most welcome!

Call (617) 338-9595 to volunteer. If you can help in any way, please call!



- ◆ Remember National Coming Out Day October 11th! See page 6 for a list of things you can do to celebrate . . .
- ◆ Important BBWN Meeting on October 28! See page 2 . . .
- ◆ BiQuest was a great experience. Read all about it starting on page 4 . . .

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Printed on
recycled paper

Bi Community News . . .

Volunteers of the Month

Thanks to all the women who have helped the network by volunteering in the Bi Office, writing articles for the newsletter, stuffing envelopes, making phone calls, going to meetings . . .

Susan Rooney
Laura Sachs
Ilta
Claire M.
Stephanie Berger
Lori P.
Carla
Nancy
Robyn Ochs
Gail Zacharias
Laura Perez
Mary Baxter
Kathleen Hepburn
Kathrine Douthit
Julie Eastin

and, as always, there are others not mentioned—because of all of you, the Network survives.

BiWomen is published bi-monthly.

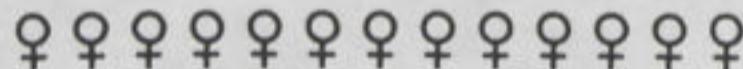
Ephemeral Editor:
Kathleen Hepburn

Contributors in a really big way:
Stephanie Berger
Kathrine Douthit
Marcia Deihl
Laura Perez
Carla
Lucy Friedland

The Boston Bisexual Women's Network is a feminist, not-for-profit collective organization whose purpose is to bring women together for support and validation. It is meant to be a safe environment in which women of all sexual self-identities, class backgrounds, racial, ethnic and religious groups, ages, abilities and disabilities are welcome. Through the vehicles of discussion, support, education, outreach, political action and social groups related to bisexuality, we are committed to the goals of full acceptance as bisexuals within the gay and lesbian community, and to full acceptance of bisexuality and the liberation of all gay people within the larger society.

Important BBWN Meeting

A State of the Network Meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct 28th, at 7:30pm at the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Cambridge. All women are welcome regardless of previous involvement in BBWN. Although membership and interest in the network is increasing, actual organizing of events and participation is decreasing. On the 10th year anniversary of our grassroots, volunteer-driven organization there's a great need for revitalization. Let's get together to brainstorm the coming season's events and the state of the network. Refreshments provided.



It's Time to Out the Bi Groups!

Media and Publicity Task Force Forming
A Media and Publicity Task Force is now forming to bring bisexual organizations and resources up from the underground. Our first meeting will be after the Bi Brunch on Saturday, November 20 at 2pm at the Bi Resource Office, 95 Berkeley Street, Boston. We will brainstorm various media and outreach opportunities to publicize our issues, events and publications. We'd like to come up with "do-able" projects that will enhance bi visibility in our communities.

The bi groups and resources have been Boston's and New England's best kept secrets for too long! Let's have more of the world know of our existence. If you'd like to give your input regarding the first meeting, or if you can't come and you'd like to be involved, call Lucy Friedland at (617) 267-5312.

Bisexual Pride T-Shirts!!

For just \$15 (or \$14 if you come to the Bi Office) you get a Bisexual Pride t-shirt in black or deep purple sizes small to xx-large.

Please indicate size and color with order. Make check out to BBWN and send to:

**BBWN, attn. Stephanie/T-shirts,
95 Berkeley St., Suite 613, Boston,
MA 02116.**

We've ordered less than 200, so order NOW!

Advertise in BiWomen!

Just \$10 per issue gets you an ad that will reach over 800 readers!

Run your ad for three issues for only \$25!

Send your business-card sized ad or personal ad with a check to:

BBWN
P.O. Box 639
Cambridge, MA 02140

DEADLINE for the December/January issue:

Friday, November 12, 1993

Please provide submissions on paper (typed or hand-written) or on floppy disk (PC or Mac), and include a name and phone number if possible.

If you do not want your name published, please tell us! Otherwise we may assume that you do not mind being listed as a contributor. You may contribute anonymously, or just use your first name, if you wish.

Send articles, calendar entries, letters, art, news and views to:

BiWomen
P.O. Box 639
Cambridge, MA 02140

Letters

Dear Wimmin,

I love Eve Diana's (and John's) piece [Best Friends, BiWomen Aug./Sept., 1993]: Great. Right On! I especially appreciate the inclusion of bibliographic info, being obsessively book-oriented myself.

Ciao Ya'll,

Sarah McKibben
Berkeley, CA

Dear BBWN:

I enjoy your newsletter very much, but I must express my disagreement with Katherine Douthit's point of view in her article "Married, Happy, and Bisexual" in the August/September issue. I have been in a committed relationship with a man for seven years, but I would no more consider legal marriage to anyone than I would sign myself into a mental institution or jump off a cliff.

Please let me make clear that I have no problem with, and in fact heartily support, non-legal public ceremonies of commitment. One of the most inspiring and heart-warming I have seen was that of two women, who have also been together seven years now. Eve Diana, in her article describing her own very beautiful commitment ceremony, expresses at least part of my concern when she refers to legal marriage as an exclusive club that awards privileges only to those deemed worthy, i.e., to heterosexual couples. I commend her and her partner on their decision to have no part of it.

Legal marriage was designed and has been perpetuated to ensure men's ownership of women and children. Certainly, some couples are able to make their relationships egalitarian despite legal marriage, but why buy into society's convention of obtaining government approval for your relationship? The government has no business giving or withholding approval of anyone's choice of partner or partners. I sincerely hope that the institution of legal marriage will die eventually, for lack of people who are willing to give credibility to it.

My intention is not to criticize women who have married legally before they realized that the institution is regressive, and/or that they are bisexual. My concern is that some bisexual women, whom I would hope represent part of the vanguard of progressive change, seem to think that getting legally married is good, or at least OK, thing to do.

Joan Walsh
Durham, NC

Published in the Boston Globe 8/13/93 Letter to the Editor

Bisexuality has nothing to do with morality

At the risk of making readers moan at yet another interest group getting its feelings hurt, I must question an assumption in Robert Taylor's review of Alice Adams' new book, "Almost Perfect" (Living/Arts, July 28): "One understands his insecurities and their symptomatic manifestations in bisexuality and deceit."

I believe that deceit may be linked to insecurity. Bisexuality, on the other hand, like gay, lesbian, or straight sexuality, has nothing to do with either vice or virtue. Margaret Mead, Eleanor Roosevelt, Virginia Woolf and Frida Kahlo were not necessarily flawed by their bisexuality. Like any sexual minority, self-accepting bisexuals are happy and see their twin-spirit as a special gift. It is unrelated to morality.

Bisexuality may be considered a symptom of insecurity only by those bisexuals who listen to Taylor's sort of knee-jerk moral inference.

Marcia Deihl,
cofounder of BBWN

Ed note: This editorial prompted Mark Snyder of WMSX to contact the network for a live radio call-in interview which aired 8/18/93. Thanks Laura Perez and Laura Sachs for the great job on such short notice.

Published in the Boston Globe 9/10/93
Confidential Chat

Support for friend of bisexual man

Dear One More Time:

I would like to respond to your letter regarding your close male friend's revealing his bisexuality. Although he has been inactive thus far, you had wanted others to share similar experiences with you. You stated that he is very special and you would like to keep him in your life.

There are male and female newsletters for Boston-area bisexuals. I suggest you subscribe to them and attend some of the support groups, breakfasts or conferences. You will both be given as much support as you need and it will be heartening to know that you are not alone.

Winkte Witch



Speak Out!

Write to your newsletter! Send us your letters, poetry, opinions, questions, essays, art, jokes, praise, criticism, news clippings . . .

▼

BiWomen

BBWN

P.O. Box 639
Cambridge, MA
02140

SUPPORT GROUP

Support group forming for people who have questions about their sexual orientation and sexual identity.

- 10 weeks - women and men -
- female and male co-leaders -
- reasonable fee -

Tuesday evenings in Cambridge.

For more details or referral, call:

Al Gentle, LIC. S.W.
(617) 491-3813.

This support group is a place to ask questions, look for answers, get information, and increase personal understanding.

G/L/B Youth
Group in Western
Mass.

The Gay, Lesbian and Bi-sexual Youth Project of the Pioneer Valley offers services for teens who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or questioning their sexual orientation. A few of the services offered are:

- Support Group and Activity Program
- AIDS and Safer Sex Information
- Mentor Program

A volunteer organization based in Northampton, the Youth Project welcomes any teen under 19 to join them at their regular meetings, based in Northampton, Mass. If you would like more information, brochures or flyers for distribution, or any other help, please call their 24-hour answering machine at (413) 584-4213.

<<<<<<<<<

**Training
Announcement**

Training for the Lesbian and Gay Helpline and the Peer Listening Project (youth-only line for Gay/ Lesbian/Bisexual Adolescents)

Dates:

Sat. Nov. 6

Sun. Nov. 7

Tues. Nov 16

Monday, Nov. 22

Tues., Nov. 30

Location: Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston.

To register, call Jennifer Ross, Program Coordinator at (617) 267-0900, ext. 286. Please leave a mailing address and telephone number.

BiQuest '93

BiQuest '93: Reflecting on the Past, Visioning for the Future

by Laura Marina Perez

From Friday, August 20 through Sunday, August 22, I attended the East Coast Bisexual Network's (ECBN) retreat entitled BiQuest '93. With this article, I hope to summarize the events of the retreat and give my own evaluation of BiQuest '93, both positive outcomes and problems.

This ECBN retreat was organized with the purpose of bringing people together from the greater bisexual communities to discuss ECBN, its role(s) within the bi communities, and the future of ECBN. Board members in attendance were Alan Hamilton (Board President), Michael Beer (Board Clerk/Secretary), Bobbi Keppel and yours truly. Robyn Ochs and Susan Rooney (Board Treasurer) were unable to attend. And last but surely not least, Cathy Cummings, an active BBWN member in the mid-1980s now doing lesbigay work in New Jersey, was our facilitator for the weekend. In total, there were eight participants including Cathy. The retreat itself took place at the Earthdance Retreat Center in West Bumfuck, I mean, Plainfield, Massachusetts, near (?-not!) Northampton.

Friday night had a set structure to it. However, given the late hour that most people arrived, we informally introduced each other and crashed late to prepare for the big weekend ahead of us.

The weekend was designed to create a safe space for people to discuss our experiences within the bi communities. We did this Saturday morning (after a very tasty breakfast!) by setting up our own guidelines as a group and sharing our expectations for the weekend with each other. A warm-up exercise followed (the "Whatcha doin'?" game) to wake us up and get up mobile. Then Cathy asked us to show us, in whatever way we could, our experiences, good and bad, and our hopes within and for the bi communities. This was a powerful exercise that helped us all share our happiness, struggles, fears and dreams.

We then had time to learn about ECBN's beginnings and its progress through the last eight years. With this information and our own personal experiences, we were ready to move to the visioning part of the retreat. Cathy led us through a series of guided visualizations, looking to the future in the year 2000, five years from now, and next year; after each visualization we drew pic-

tures with and without words to describe what we saw in our visions for our communities in the far and near future. We kept these pictures in mind throughout the weekend while strategizing next steps.

After a delicious dinner (the folks at Earthdance can cook!!), we discussed what the current situation is for ECBN, what it does, what it specializes in and what it could and should be doing better. For me, this was a difficult piece of the weekend. Not only was it late, but we were discussing such not fun things as budget and income and expenses. I recognize that these are important issues. However, I did get the chance to voice my concerns about the gripes and complaints I've heard from various people about the way ECBN functions. I also stated that what I see as one of our most serious tasks at hand was not being emphasized: addressing head on the issues of the racism, sexism, classism, ableism, ageism and other oppressions that saturate our communities. In an essential and tiring move, before we broke for the evening, we put together three focus groups to discuss the most prominent issues at hand which were: sustainable volunteerism/working on our own shit; developing a needs/services assessment; and creating an International Bisexual Resource Center (IBRC).

Sunday morning, following our last scrumptious breakfast (sad pout), we got together in our focus groups and took until lunch to go hash out our issues. I was in the sustainable volunteerism/let's own our oppressive behavior/and as bi activists, let's not be burnt out and scare the newcomers away group. After lunch, each group presented its work and suggestions which centered around how to do a "comprehensive" needs/services assessment, support groups for hardcore activists and newer activists, regular forums to address homophobia, racism, sexism, etc., etc., and next steps for the IBRC. Its my expectation that the next BiWomen will run a list of what the specific suggestions were and if you'd like to get them earlier, feel free to call Cathy at (908) 246-0662 or the ECBN office at (617) 338-9595 and leave a message.

It was a long weekend and before it was all over, we appreciated each other and the lovely people at Earthdance. The good points of the retreat were that as a small group, we got to know each other better than we would have otherwise, Cathy was an outstanding facilitator, we all worked hard to get the most we could out of two full days of brainstorming and some play, and Earthdance is a beautiful place with beautiful

BiQuest continues on next page

BiQuest, from preceding page

people which gave us a great space to get our work done. The bad points of BiQuest '93 were that since we wanted more people to be involved in this retreat, I think we probably should not have scheduled it in the month of August and next time around we have to do publicity and outreach much sooner so people have ample time to plan and respond. With a greater number of people in attendance, perhaps we could have had better representation of young people, older people, people of color, people with disabilities, PLWAs (people living with AIDS) and others who were not among us.

My expectation for BiQuest '93 were high, as they are for ECBN. I just need to keep remembering that the future is what we make of it, however difficult or impossible it may seem. We decide what we want our communities to be coz we are our communities.



BIQUEST '93 . . . a newcomer's perspective

by Carla

SO...when I read the write-up for the weekend....

"BiQuest 93 is a weekend-long Vision Quest/planning meeting to look at the past, present and future of the East Coast Bisexual Network. Participants will explore, play, listen, and interact with each other. The qualities necessary for a Vision Quest include creativity, commitment, focus, wisdom, respect, and the open-hearted willingness to question, learn, and be attentive..."

...I thought, "well, never heard of the ECBN, but it sounds like a retreat for personal growth and learning about issues of the Bisexual community at the same time. Sounds like what I'm looking for!", and I signed up before I had any second thoughts.

My first pang of nervousness came two days before the weekend, when I realized that no one I knew (of the small number of people I've recently met) was going. But that passed, and I put another foot forward.

The second pang came as I walked out of my Corporate America Mon-Fri 9-5 world, hopped into my car for what I guessed would be a quick 1-hour drive down the pike....and found myself almost 3 hours later in total darkness on a dirt road in East Bum-f-ck, Massachusetts, looking for a place called Earthdance.

And so continues my confession to the plethora of anxieties running through my head at the start of this BiQuest weekend. After finding that the seven other attendees all knew each other, were presently active/ activists in the bi-

sexual communities and somewhat 'out', I started to think, "What in the WORLD have I gotten myself into now?! I am like no where NEAR where these folks are at. Heck, I don't even know what ECBN is. How will I be able to contribute? Who am I kidding? Where's the door?" And if it wasn't initially overwhelming enough, I found that the rustic setting of the Earthdance retreat center was also a vegetarian and clothing-optional environment. Okay....no problem.

Open mind, open heart, and gifts will follow...

Moment by moment, the weekend started to unravel into an incredible, insightful experience. The others there were as open to a newcomer's perspective as I was to their experience. Cathy Cummings facilitated some amazing sessions of exploring the current Bisexual communities and visioning for the future. We talked about what ECBN's mission is, where it's at presently, and what its place should or could be in the bisexual community. We shared, we ate (marvelous healthy food), we swam in a quarry, we took walks in the woods, we warmed up in a sauna, we escaped from our busy lives into a beautiful country setting to focus on the issues that brought us here. By the time Sunday afternoon rolled around, we had developed some action plans of what was needed to move forward as a bisexual community. There were a lot of concerns brought up, a lot of intense issues, high expectations and no expectations, but by the end of the weekend, there were eight people much closer, much more relaxed, and much more focused.

Personally, I learned something that I feel needs to be shared with others who might be in a similar place. I went into the weekend thinking that I had nothing to offer, as someone who is just beginning to come out to myself and others. Instead I realized that new people and new perspectives are just the things needed for a community to grow. The resources of services and support groups that are currently available for the bisexual community have been an incredible help to me, and I shudder to think of where I'd be today if they weren't available to me. But these resources don't grow on trees. Organizations like the ECBN, Boston Bisexual Women's Network, BiVersity, etc. were formed and continue to run with a lot of elbow grease and leg work behind the scenes. The main organizers of these groups have put a lot of time and effort to create a safe community atmosphere for people who are searching like myself. Volunteers and new ideas are needed more than ever if we, as a bisexual community, are going to continue to move forward, gain acceptance, and live freely. You don't need to be an activist or an incredible organizer or facilitator to contribute...(shucks, you don't even have to take your clothes off!)...just have the desire to celebrate who you are. ▽

Correspondence Club for Bi's

Why join a correspondence/contact club?

Corresponding is an expansive, outward, generative activity. It stretches your world of friends beyond the limits of your local community.

Make a penfriend...share subjects of mutual interest...meet vacation partners...exchange visits...meet the man or woman (or man and woman) of your dreams...promote solidarity with the bisexual community in other cities, states, countries...

To participate: describe yourself, your personality, interests, hobbies, likes and dislikes on a piece of paper. For best matching results, you may include a recent snapshot (all info and photos will be kept confidential). We will try to match you with three compatible bisexual people to contact by mail.

Write to: O.C., P.O. Box 11248, Hilo, Hawaii 96721. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope or a 29¢ stamp.

Aloha.



EVENT IDEAS for NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY —

October 11th, 1993



Participants
needed for
Research Study on
Psychotherapy

Are you lesbian, gay, or bisexual? Have you seen a therapist or counselor within the past 10 years? Are you over 18? If you answered yes to these three questions, you are eligible to participate in this study. This study is part of a doctoral dissertation which explores the experiences of lesbians, gay males, and bisexuals who are currently in therapy or who have been in therapy within the past 10 years. Participants will complete a survey which takes less than 30 minutes to complete. All responses are anonymous. To participate in this study, request a questionnaire by sending in your name and address to:

Psychotherapy Project, Box
1114, Northampton, MA
01061

Or call: (413) 586-4631
and leave your name and mailing address.

Be Visible

Plan a 'Queer Visibility Field Trip'. Wear NCOD t-shirts, buttons, and caps and spend the day in a group at a shopping mall, amusement park, on a bike ride, etc...

Display NCOD literature in conspicuous places throughout your community where the other groups put their handouts.

Contact local radio stations about having representatives of gay, lesbian, and bisexual groups on their programs.

Have a religious group announce that it recognizes and blesses gay and lesbian couples and families; ask them to perform a union ceremony for those who want to more visibly establish their relationship

Hand out National Coming Out Day literature at a local shopping center to get the word out.

Get Political

Host an evening of letter writing to local and national elected officials or newspapers on gay and lesbian issues. Your local political organization, or the Human Rights Campaign Fund (202-628-4160), can help you with ideas.

Hold a demonstration calling for gay/lesbian/bisexual rights in a prominent location. Get permission to have the rainbow flag flown at a government building on National Coming Out Day.

Educate Your Community

Host a film event featuring coming out themes or other gay/lesbian/bisexual related educational subjects.

Have a book fair or art show highlighting gay and lesbian authors or artists. Many gay, lesbian,

and bisexual authors will make themselves available for book readings and signings.

Place and advertisement in a major metropolitan newspaper in your area encouraging gay and lesbian people to come out.

Produce a 'Coming Out Workshop' with a local/campus counselor or host an event where people come out publicly and/or tell their personal coming out stories.

Party!!!

Create a gay and lesbian 'Come Out and Play' sports event. Plan a volleyball, softball, bowling or golf game for people in your community.

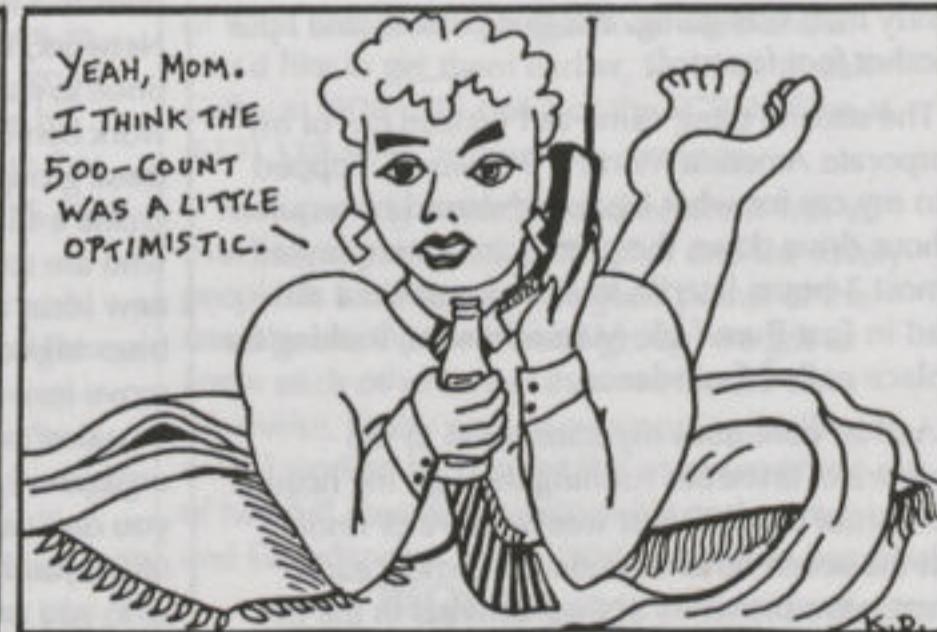
Host a fund raiser for the National Coming Out Day campaign to support the nationwide effort. Some suggestions: House Party, Picnic, Dance.

Arrange a gay/lesbian/bisexual entertainment event: a band, stand up comedy, performance art, singing, variety show, etc.

Whatever you do, please notify the National Coming Out Day headquarters so we may get the information to other people who call us from your area. We encourage everyone at your event to wear a National Coming Out Day shirt and button to make a powerful statement about the importance of telling the truth about their life. We will assume the media is welcome at your event unless you tell us otherwise. Publicity may be your next step in living powerfully and openly.

This excerpt is from the NCOD, P.O. Box 34640, Washington, DC 20043-4640. Phone: (800) 866-NCOD

ALL Bi, MYSELF by Kathrine Douthit



My Cat, Myself

Li'-Cat is in heat.

She yowls from the core of her poor quivering body,
waving her pulsing rear end in the air.

Natural, blatant, unabashed.

They said at the shelter
she was raised by two old people,
that one of them died,
and the other had to go into a nursing home.

She was abandoned.
not a kitten,
and had been there over a week;
her time was running out, when she presented herself to me.

"Eight thousand cats picked up in one month, August 1992," the handout said.
The cages held a dozen and
The others . . . don't picture it.
But at least, child, it's shots these days, not gas.

It's odd that a cat of five years of age would not be spayed.
Had she ever been a mother?
I'll never know, there were no papers on her.
But if not, I understand
For I'm forty-four, with
never even a brush with motherhood,
and that's been fine by me.

We yowl together.
For it's my time too.
I cultivate *nin*,
the Zen word for patience, or better yet, constancy.
Still waiting to get it right.

My first two lovers were gay,
one man, one woman,
no, not a mistake or a phase for me.
Last month, some compañeros gave me a
public award—a handmade clay mug with the words,
"You've always been a little queer."
Yes, a little.

My last two lovers were straight white men—
not a mistake or a phase either—
and one of them was my perfect match
(on paper, anyway).
The other one wasn't,
but he's the one who has me yowling like my cat.

I'm taking Li'-Cat to get "fixed."
But I will never be so.
That is her burden and mine.
To her, I quote Poe, "Nevermore."
To myself, it's another letter in the name of the attributed author,
Pope: "Hope springs eternal in the human breast,
Man never is but always to be blessed."

I cultivate *nin*.
And sometimes I envy my cat.

Marcia Deihl 6-21-93

Some resources used for this issue of BiWomen:

Words, the newsletter of WORDS/NSU, the lesbian/gay/bisexual caucus of the National Writers Union, Boston Local. P.O. Box 1073, Harvard Square Station, Cambridge, MA 02238. Phone (617) 437-9013.

Bi-News, the newsletter of the Bisexual Network of Austin (Texas). P.O. Box 8439, Austin, TX 78713. Phone: (512) 370-9573.

Options, Rhode Island's Lesbian and Gay Newspaper, P.O. Box 27444, Providence, RI 02907. Phone: (401) 831-4519.

NOW Times, the newsletter of the National Organization of Women. \$35/year (6 issues). 1000 16th St. NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036-5705.

Northwest Bi Ways, the newsletter of BiNet Oregon, The Bisexual Network of Oregon. P.O. Box 8232, Portland, Oregon 97214-8232. Voice/FAX: (503) 236-4941.

Women's Studies Around Boston, calendar published four times a year by the Women's Studies Program, Room 14E-316, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139.



BUTTONS

Bisexual Pride

Visi BI lity

Bisexual Queer



on sale at the Bi Office.

Send

\$1

plus a stamped, self-addressed envelope (or 50¢ postage and handling) to:

BBWN

P.O. Box 639
Cambridge, MA
02140

Speaking Out, from page 1

old tired battles, some things are new. Politicized Bisexuals are just now emerging from their status as the political "elephant in the middle of the room," the new love that dare not speak its name. Although the "B-word" was plastered everywhere as part of the official name of the 1993 March on Washington, I did not see it appear in this Nation except in Duberman's reference to Freud's clinical theories.

Today's bisexual movement is being given a bum rap. When bisexuals aren't being ignored, we are usually seen as having an apolitical, identity-based politics—all lifestyle and no substance. We are seen as Bloomsbury elites, closeted gays and lesbians in a temporary "bi drag" phase, swinging 60s lifestyle retreads, young Oberlin grunge-androgynes, closeted married men who spread AIDS to "innocent" women, or women who want to "water down" the lesbian movement by talking about their boyfriend problems. But, as our local Cambridge mayor, Ken Reeves, said about his coming out as a Black gay man last year, people have to lose their "made up people" when they know a real one.

... We would do well to reclaim the berdache status, where the androgynous/crossdressing/gay, bisexual, or straight shamans in some Native

American tribes were seen as having a special spiritual gift, a "twin-spirit" which could intercede between men and women or between people and gods. They were valued members of their tribe. We are more than allies. We want to come home to Queer Nation too.

In struggle and snuggle,

Marcia Deihl

Sent to the International Gay & Les Human Rights Commission, Action Secretariat of International Lesbian and Gay Assoc.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I am tired of only hearing the word "BISEXUAL" from the right wing! I am especially tired when I know that I and other bi activists around the country have dialogued with you, politely, patiently, about this for months, even years.

This is especially an international issue because many cultures relate to the Western definition of sexual orientation and labeling differently than we do. In many cultures other than our own here in the US there is not such a polarized either/or set of communities and identities w/no middle ground to speak of. By (1) equating bisexual w/gay and (2) not allowing bisexuals their own identity, you are complicit in perpetuating this false either/or and-nothing-in-the-middle illusion about human sexual diversity too.

I am especially angry when you don't even use the "Bi" word when it is the most accurate term to describe someone — as in your recent "Emergency Response Network" cover story — "Gay Councilor Brutally Murdered in Brazil." Buried in the body of the article is the phrase that "he had declared on a radio program that he was bisexual." Are bisexuals the same as gay? Only when you want us to be so you can claim us. Not when you want to invisibilize us or oversimplify the struggle.

It is a powerful news story and human rights issue in itself that dos Santos died for declaring himself bi. Respect that! Tell the truth!

And I don't want to hear that "bisexual" is a skirt some gays can hide behind when they're afraid to come out all the way as gay. I know that. I also know that "gay" is a skirt some bis can hide behind when they're afraid of the censure of the gay community and don't come out as bi. Do we educate about that just as loud?

Are we going backwards since the March on Washington for Les, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation, or can we go forward, letting the right wing know that we are proud of all of who we are and claim it all together? I will continue to work for all people's human rights and I'm glad the Emergency Response Network helps me to do so. But I await your reply to my concerns. (And I don't mean just a nice letter by a staffperson, I mean discussing this like the serious policy-level, board-level issue it is!)

Lorraine Hutchins



BiSexual Native And Women Of Color (BINAWOC)

A message/newsletter for and by bisexual Native and women of color, grounded in a spiritual perspective of life, love, relationship and sexuality.

Evidence exists that some traditional African and indigenous American cultures acknowledged and accepted the existence among their peoples of women and men who shared sexually with other women and men, respectively. Some people within some cultures also may have taken on the roles of people of the 'opposite' sex with or without sharing sexually within the context of what was considered 'normal' in that role. Some people were (and still are?) hermaphrodites, as well.

BINAWOC's editor has not yet come across any evidence that any African or American Indian cultures historically acknowledged and accepted the existence of *bisexual* practices among people within their cultures. The BINAWOC editor's own inner nudging is that bisexuality did exist and was accepted as a part of the context of homosexual sharing within cultures.

The BINAWOC newsletter welcomes any information on the traditional, historical existence, acknowledgment, and acceptance of bisexuality and/or of homosexuality, reverse gender roles, and/or hermaphroditism within the cultures of indigenous and peoples of color anywhere. A photocopy of the title page or publisher's page of any written source of such information would be very much appreciated, along with a photocopy of the page(s) on which the information appears. BINAWOC's editor is willing to reimburse folks for the cost of photocopying, but please write BINAWOC first, for an okay for repayment, or just send the citation for where the information can be found, and we'll look it up on this end.

BINAWOC especially supports Native and women of color from any place, who love women spiritually, intellectually, emotionally and sexually, including bi-positive lesbians and bisexual women. BINAWOC is open to hearing from any such women, and from the friends, partners and families of such women. Also, from straight bi-positive and gay-positive women and men, and bi men. Write: BINAWOC, P.O. Box 2253, Prescott, Arizona 86302, USA. ▽



Calling All Bi Women:

A Bisexual Women's Anthology is currently under production and call for all forms of written and visual work is being sought. At least half of the anthology will be devoted to the work of Bi Women of Colour. Contributors are asked if possible to send their written work on an IBM compatible disc as well as a printed copy. Also send a self-addressed stamped envelope for its return (if outside Canada please also include International Reply Coupons.) This is your time to share your thoughts, hopes, anger or dreams with the world around you. Send Contributions to: Bisexual Women's Anthology, c/o Sister Vision Press, PO Box 217, Station E, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6H 4E2.

Source: Northwest Bi Ways, the newsletter of BiNet Oregon: the Bisexual Network of Oregon. ▽

Daughters of the Sisterhood

Seeking submissions for a feminist/womanist anthology by women under 30. Deadline December 31, 1993. Info: Rebecca Kaplan, P.O. Box 441460, West Somerville, MA 02144. ▽

Hey you, Switch Hitter!

Are you bisexual? Do you swing both ways? Are you half straight, half gay, a fence-sitter? Do you sleep with anything that moves? Are you a Switch Hitter? Then write to me soon! Switch Hitter, the new publication for bisexuals, needs submissions of fiction, letters to Dear D'Amanda, dirty sex stories, and all sorts of other things. We're really cool and queer as all get out, and we really want to hear from you. Genuine Switch Hitters get top priority for publication, but we'll gladly read stuff from all kinds of queer people. Don't be shy — we love mail!

Switch Hitter, 955 Massachusetts Avenue, #148, Cambridge, MA 02139 ▽

TELEPHONE (617) 455-6189

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SUBMISSIONS

Ongoing Events

First Mondays:

Support Group for Anti-Racist White Women, 6:30-8:30pm at the Women's Theological Center, 140 Clarendon St., 6th fl., Boston. No charge, donation requested. Info: (617) 536-8782.

Tuesdays:

Bisexual Women's Rap Group. 7:30pm-9:30pm at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Central Square, Cambridge. All women welcome. Info: (617) 354-8807.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Freedom Trail Band Rehearsals. Concert and marching band, no auditions. 7:30-9:30pm. Location and info: Kathy (617) 236-5978.

Wednesdays:

Say It, Sister! radio show on WMBR 88.1 FM (first on your FM dial!). 7:30-8:30pm. Info and topics: (617) 253-8810.

First and Third Tuesdays:

Bisexual Issues Rap Group at the New Haven Women's Center, 614 Orange St., (corner Bishop) New Haven, Conn. Please call to specify wheelchair access or ASL interpreting requirements. Voice (203) 776-2658, TTY and voice (203) 397-2381.

Saturdays:

Lavender Country Dance Group (Formerly NEGAL) . 8-11pm, beginners lesson 7:30. All dances smoke- and alcohol-free. Open to all gays, lesbians, bisexuals and their friends. First Church of Jamaica Plain, corner Centre and Eliot Sts., JP. On MBTA Green and Orange lines. \$5. Info: Janet, (617) 522-2216.

CALENDAR, from page 12

October 13 ♦ Wednesday

Rally, organized by the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights. 4pm in Nurses Hall at the Massachusetts State House. The rally will urge the Mass. State Legislature to pass H.3353, the Gay/ Lesbian/Bisexual Students Rights Bill. Info: (617) 828-3039.

October 15-17 ♦ Friday-Sunday

Retreat: Weekend of Reflection and Renewal, sponsored by the Women's Theological Center in Boston. The focus of the weekend will be "Talking Across Difference: Diversity and Difference Among Us." At the Blairhaven Conference Center at Duxbury, Mass. \$65-90. Register early. Info: (617) 536-8782.

October 16 ♦ Saturday

Monthly Bi Brunch. Meet at 11am at Cafe Moka, Dartmouth St. across from Back Bay Station (Orange Line).



October 21 ♦ Thursday

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Speakers Bureau Meeting. 8pm at the Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston Street, on the third floor, above the Small Planet Bar and Grill (formerly the Back Bay Bistro) in Copley Square. The Community Church is wheelchair accessible and is located near the Copley Green Line MBTA stop. The meeting is free and open to the public. Topic: *Lesbian, gay and bisexual parenting*. The general Bureau meeting begins at 6:45 p.m. with the program starting at 8:00 p.m. Info: (617) 354-0133.

October 22-24 ♦ Friday-Sunday

BiWest 1993. Bisexual Conference, Western Region Pacific Rim. Sponsored by San Diego Bisexual Forum. "Conference Bi Day, Party Bi Night" \$35-65. Info: (619) 259-8019. Accommodations: Seapoint Hotel, \$54/night. (806) 345-9995.

October 24 ♦ Sunday

March for Our Lives...Celebrate Diversity...End Hate and Violence, Tampa, Florida. Sponsored by the National Organization of Women. Kick-off event in N.O.W.'s National Campaign against Violence, Hate and Bigotry. March info: Kim Costanza (800) 360-1225; travel info: (800) 741-4384.

October 28 ♦ Thursday

State of the Network Meeting, 7:30pm at the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Central Square, Cambridge. All women welcome regardless of previous involvement in BBWN. Although membership and interest in the network is increasing, actual organizing of events and participation is decreasing. On the 10th year anniversary of our grassroots, volunteer-driven organization there's a great need for revitalization. Let's get together to brainstorm the coming season's events and the state of the network. Refreshments provided.

November 4 ♦ Thursday

Bisexual Writers Group. See Oct. 7.

November 5 ♦ Friday

Film: A Very Curious Girl, at the Museum of Fine Arts, 8pm. This is a French film about a (bisexual) woman's revenge on some people who took advantage of her. Cost: \$6.50.

November 7 ♦ Sunday

BBWN / LABIA (Lesbians and Bisexual Women in Alliance) Brunch at 11am in rockin' Somerville, hosted by the charming and scintillating Mary and Stephanie. Yummy veggie food, excellent coffee and hot babes. Bring one or more of the above. 15 minute walk from Davis and Porter Square. Call 666-3149 for directions.

Bi Space. See Oct. 3.

November 10 ♦ Wednesday

BBWN Introductory Meeting. A safe place for women to connect with the bi community. 7:30 - 9pm at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., (Central Sq.). Info: (617) 354-8807.

Diversity Training Institute and People of Color Organizing Institute. Part of NGLTF Creating Change conference (see below).

November 11 ♦ Thursday

Race, Class and Gender Institute. Part of NGLTF Creating Change conference (see below).

November 12-14 ♦ Friday-Sunday

The Oberlin College Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alumni Association's Second Reunion, at Oberlin, Ohio. OLGBA is the *only* U.S. sexual minority alumni association actually chartered by a college or university and has 900+ members! Bobbi Keppel, Advisory Committee member for bisexual issues, hopes other bisexuals will attend, especially older women. Contact the Alumni Office for more information.

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Policy Institute's Sixth Annual *Creating Change*, a National Conference for Gay and Lesbian Organizing and Skills Building., Durham, North Carolina. Info: (202) 332-6483; TTD (202) 332-6219, or write *Creating Change*, NGLTF, 1734 14th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

November 12 ♦ Friday

BiWomen submissions deadline for the December/January issue! !

November 15 ♦ Monday

BiWomen volunteer night. Type articles, read newsletters, open the mail, make phone calls.



REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED!! Please come. 7-9pm at the Bi Office. Info: (617) 338-9595.

November 18 ♦ Thursday

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Speakers Bureau Meeting. [See October 21.] Topic: How do we talk about sex?

November 18-20 ♦ Thursday-Saturday

AIDS Training for African American Women, AIDS prevention among African American women and people of African descent. The training will focus on AIDS prevention, cultural roots, substance abuse, and the AIDS epidemic in the community. No charge. Info: (617) 536-8782.

CALENDAR continues on next page

CALENDAR, *from preceding page*

November 20 ♦ Saturday

Monthly Bi Brunch. Meet at 11am at Thornton's, 100 Peterborough St., Boston, in the Fenway. Used to be called Sibel's. Closest T: Fenway on the Green Line.



Out the Bi Groups! Media and Publicity Task Force for bi groups and resources. Please see page 2 for details. 2pm at the Bi Office. Info: Lucy Friedland, (617) 267-5312.

November 29 ♦ Monday

BBWN newsletter stuffing volunteer night. Free anecdotes, gossip, unsolicited advice, jokes, fun! Help us get the newsletter out to those who need it. 7-9pm at the Bi Office. Info: (617) 338-9595.

December 2 ♦ Thursday

Bisexual Writers Group. See Oct. 7.

December 5 ♦ Sunday

Bi Space. See Oct. 3.

Looking Ahead in 1994...

January 13-15 ♦ Thursday-Saturday

Black Women in the Academy: Defending Our Name: 1894-1994. National Conference, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Radcliffe College. Keynotes: Lani Guinier, Johnnetta Cole, Angela Davis. Info: (617) 253-8844.

February 11-13

Northwest Regional Bisexual Conference, sponsored by BiNet Oregon and BiNet Northwest. Info: BiNet Oregon, P.O. Box 8232, Portland, OR 97207. Phone: (503) 236-4941.

June 17-25 ♦ Friday-Saturday

Gay Games IV, New York City.

June 23 ♦ Thursday

BiNet Annual Meeting, New York City.

June 24-25 ♦ Friday-Saturday

International Bisexual Conference, New York City.

June 26 ♦ Sunday

Stonewall 25: International March on the United Nations to Affirm the Human Rights of Lesbian and Gay People, New York City.

November 17-20 ♦

InQueery/InTheory/InDeed: Sixth North American Conference on Lesbian, Gay, and BISEXUAL Studies; University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. ▽



Telling my PC friends I love a man, again

I feel so elated, I laugh from sheer joy
"I think I'm in love," I tell all my friends.
"What, again? Which is it this time, girl or boy?"
"Do I have to tell you?" But I can sense
from their expressions the answer is yes.
I worry about their reactions, struggle against

my fears, then out with it: "You've probably guessed
It's a guy, handsome, another musician."
I hesitate. Nothing to cause me distress

in their eyes, and they grin, groan in unison.
One looks away, begins to toy with her shoelaces,
but I see in most no sign of derision;

encouraging looks on nearly all faces,
all friends except one are giving me smiles.
Although a few say they wouldn't trade places

with me, they know I'll be happy, at least for a while.
The only face that's displeased is the one in the mirror:
she's the one who's most difficult, the one for whom I'll
have to match heart to politics, persuade, reconcile.

Michele Spring Moore

Michele Spring Moore is a student in the master's degree program in creative writing at the University of Colorado in Boulder, and a founder of the Rochester (N.Y.) Bisexual Women's Network. Her work has been published in *Bay Windows* and *Fireweed: A Feminist Quarterly*. ▽

The Bi Office

is the Bisexual Resource Office, 95 Berkeley Street, Suite 613, Boston. (617) 338-9595

For ongoing events, see page 10.



SUBSCRIBE

CALENDAR

October 1-3 ♦ Friday-Sunday
Southern Connecticut State University Women's Studies Program presents the **Third Annual Women's Studies Conference**, "Women Building Community: Crossing the Boundaries of Race, Religion, Class, Gender..." Info: Dr. Vara Neverow (203) 397-4204.

October 1-2 ♦ Friday-Saturday
Anti-Racist Training for White Women. Friday 6-9pm, Saturday 9:30am-3:30pm at the Women's Theological Center, 140 Clarendon St., 6th floor, Boston. A skill and resource sharing and building workshop for those interested in exploring issues of racism and white identity, and in being a change agent in their organizations and personal lives. \$25-80, includes lunch. Info: (617) 536-8782.

Support the Boston Bisexual Women's Network – and help us keep the newsletter alive!

Subscribe to BiWomen!

To start a new subscription or renew your current one, fill out the form below.

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Sliding scale (check one):

\$0-20 (pay what you can) _____

\$20-30 (suggested) _____

\$30-100 _____

Send this form along with your check to:

BBWN
P.O. Box 639
Cambridge, MA 02140

October 1-3 ♦ Friday-Sunday
11th Annual U.K. Bisexual Conference. Info: [+44] 602 703553



October 2 ♦ Saturday

BBWN Women's Brunch, noon at Kathrine's house in Brookline. Call Julie at (617) 566-6543 for directions.

Biversity apple picking/picnic. Meet at noon at the Alewife T station in front of the Dunkin Donuts. Dress warm, bring picnic stuff. We're going to Bolton Spring Farm on Rte. 117, Bolton.

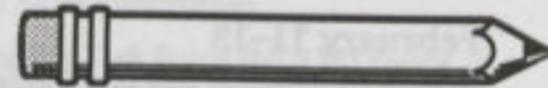
October 3 ♦ Sunday

Bi Space. A friendly discussion space to meet other bisexuals and talk about bisexual issues. 7-9pm at the Bi Office. \$2 donation is requested to help pay for rental of the space.

Film: Embracing Our Sexuality, at the Museum of Fine Arts, 1pm. A film about women's sexuality (our own Sharon Gonsalves is in it!). Cost: \$6.50.

October 5 ♦ Tuesday

Pro-Choice Lobby Day to pass the "abortion clinic access bill" to prohibit clinic blockades. Noon rally, lobby 10am-2pm, State House, Boston. Info: Mass Choice (617) 566-8800.



October 7 ♦ Thursday

Bisexual Writers

Group. Open to all bisexual writers, whether published or not. Attendees are invited to read their material, contribute constructive criticism, bring information on publications soliciting material, and share tips on writing in general. 7-9pm at the Bi Office.

We Will Survive: 70s Style Dance Party to benefit Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, 6pm-midnight, Boston Center for the Arts. \$30-100. Info: Mary Beth Damm (617) 492-8306.

October 7-9 ♦ Thursday-Saturday

Third Annual Conference on Sexual Assault on Campus, Nashville, Tenn. Info: (800) 537-4903. Sexual Assault Conference, P.O. Box 1338, Holmes Beach, FL 34218-1338

October 8-10 ♦ Friday-Sunday

OUTWRITE '93, the Fourth Annual Queer Writers Conference. Over 2000 writers, editors, booksellers and readers discuss and explore the writings of our communities. Theme: "Subversion, Perversion, Inversion: Queer Writers' Versions of the World." At Boston's Park Plaza Hotel and Towers. \$55. Info: (617) 482-4042



October 11 ♦ Monday
National Coming Out Day!!

CALENDAR continues on page 10

Bi Women

The Newsletter of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network

BBWN Gets Ready for 1994

by Kathrine Douthit

*"Little drops of water, little grains of sand,
Make the mighty ocean and the pleasant land.
So the little minutes, humble though they be,
Make the mighty ages of eternity."*

Julia A. Fletcher, 1845

On October 28, nine members of BBWN met at the Cambridge Women's Center for a "State of the Network Meeting." The following are "minutes" from that meeting "humble though they be." All of us who were present would like to keep others involved one way or another in BBWN informed of what ideas were generated – and would of course also like to encourage the same to come to any of the meetings scheduled for the next couple of months.

The "State of the Network" meeting was called mutually by several BBWN volunteers because 1) there was a general feeling of a slight breakdown in communication among members, and 2) because, while the newsletter enjoys a healthy subscription list, participation in preparing the newsletter and sending it out had not been active. With these two main concerns – heightened by difficulties in sending out the last newsletter – a date was set to discuss ways of refreshing the network.

Already, on an upbeat note, the meeting had two newcomers who listened intently and patiently, and whose presence encouraged all of us to speak with maybe a bit more clarity than might otherwise have been the case. Seven of the women present have been involved with BBWN for some time, and they began the meeting by discussing the problems mentioned

Ready for 1994 continues on page 6

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These excerpts originally appeared in BiNet News, Halloween 1993, in "What is Stonewall 25?" written by Tom Limoncelli, BiNet USA rep to Stonewall 25 and Brenda Howard, Domestic Outreach Chair, Stonewall 25.

Bisexual Involvement in Stonewall 25

"Everyone talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it." -Mark Twain (famous closeted bisexual)

The full title is "Stonewall 25: International March on the United Nations to Affirm the Human Rights of Lesbian and Gay People." People keep asking us the same question: How come it doesn't say 'bisexual'?

To make a long story short, that decision was made by an international committee at the last ILGA (International Lesbian and Gay Association) conference in Paris. American and other "western" countries were in the minority in wanting to add 'bisexual'. Majority rules... and you can guess what happened. (No. there aren't any ILGA conferences between now and June).

Stonewall continues on page 4

Bi Community News . . .

Volunteers of the Month

Thanks to all the women who have helped the network by volunteering in the Bi Office, writing articles for the newsletter, stuffing envelopes, making phone calls, going to meetings . . .

Linda Blair • Katherine Douthit • [REDACTED] • Ann Goglia •
Rebecca Kaplan • Belchne Kleine • Robyn Ochs • Laura Perez •
Laura Sachs • Gail Zacharias • Stephanja Berger • Mary Baxter •
Claire M. • Lucy Friedland • Jennifer Barry • Kathleen Hepburn •
Annie Senghas • Lynn • Liz Highleyman • Rebecca Kaplan •
Sharon Gonsalves • Karen Friedland
and, as always, others of you who helped but missed out on all the glory. You know who you are.

BiWomen is published bi-monthly.

Editorial Team
(*Go, Team, Go!!!*)
for this issue of BiWomen:

Stephanie Berger
Kathrine Douthit
Kathleen Hepburn
Linda Blair
Lynn
[REDACTED]

Contributors:
Ann Goglia
Lucy Friedland
Laura Perez
Laura Sachs
Robyn Ochs
Liz Nania

Production:
Kathleen Hepburn
Linda Blair



The Boston Bisexual Women's Network is a feminist, not-for-profit collective organization whose purpose is to bring women together for support and validation. It is meant to be a safe environment in which women of all sexual self-identities, class backgrounds, racial, ethnic and religious groups, ages, abilities and disabilities are welcome. Through the vehicles of discussion, support, education, outreach, political action and social groups related to bisexuality, we are committed to the goals of full acceptance as bisexuals within the gay and lesbian community, and to full acceptance of bisexuality and the liberation of all gay people within the larger society.

Bi Directory Deadline is December 1

The next (11th) edition of the International Directory of Bisexual Groups is in its birthing stages. The deadline for changes, corrections, additions, announcements, notices, etc. is December 1. If you have a copy of the Directory on hand, please check it and make sure that the listings from your region are up to date, correct, comprehensive, etc. If you aren't sure your group is listed, send it to me anyway. I'd rather hear about it twice than not at all.

What information do I need: group's name, address, phone number, and a 10 or so word description of what the group does (e.g., social activities and support groups), and year the group was founded.

Remember, the only way the Directory will be thorough and accurate is with YOUR help!

I can be reached at ochsr@harvarda.harvard.edu, or ochsr@harvarda.bitnet. Or you can reach me by phone at 617-495-8476 (days, EST) or at P.O. Box 391611, Cambridge MA 02140.

You can order a copy of the Directory by sending US \$5.00 to BRC, P.O. Box 639, Cambridge Massachusetts 02140. USA.

Thanks in advance.

Robyn Ochs

DEADLINE for the February/March issue:

Friday, January 14, 1993

Please provide submissions on paper (typed or hand-written) or on floppy disk (PC or Mac), and include a name and phone number if possible.

If you do not want your name published, please tell us! Otherwise we may assume that you do not mind being listed as a contributor. **You may contribute anonymously, or just use your first name, if you wish.**

Send articles, calendar entries, letters, art, news and views to:

BiWomen
P.O. Box 639
Cambridge, MA 02140

FOCUS for the February/March issue:

Coming Out Stories!

BBWN Financial Statement

9 months from 1/1/93 through 9/30/93

Balance forward 1/1/93 \$ 3392.00

Expenses:

March	1333.93
Printing	1305.78
Postage	512.46
Supplies	35.65
Space rental	40.00
Advertising	50.00
Bank fee	5.00
	\$ 3282.82

Income:

Dues	\$ 1173.00
Advertising	175.00
Merchandise	2408.00
Brunch	221.00
Interest	43.00
	\$ 3020.00

Balance as of 9/30/93 \$ 3129.00

- submitted by Robyn Ochs, treasurer,
on 9/24/93

Letters

To our reader in Durham, NC —

I hope that you will reconsider my intentions in writing "Married, Happy, & Bisexual" for the August/September issue of *Bi Women*.

I agree with your feelings about legal marriage as having been throughout history the ownership of women and children by men. I agree that the institution continues to be a concession to patriarchy. I had no plan to concentrate on the debate of whether or not one should marry, since I considered the disdain for marriage too self-evident for discussion. Hence I used the phrases "finding yourself married" and "but our weddings are past."

I merely wanted to offer some light-hearted comfort to those women who married legally — for reasons with which they might still sympathize — or for those who lacked the liberation and discretion you yourself enjoy.

I would not like to encourage these women to divorce *purely* out of bisexual- societal pressure. Though you liken their past decisions to suicide, these women are in fact alive and in need of our support and understanding.

Thank you for your care and time in writing — and for voicing your valid feelings about legal marriage.

Kathrine Douthit,
BBWN

Hi! [REDACTED]

bisexuality. I never knew there really were bisexuals. I thought it was just a term for "wanna-be's". Gays who want to seem straight or straights who want to be more "in" with their gay friends. I've always glossed over feelings in my past as trying to be more empathetic towards my gay/lesbian friends. I've only just accepted that they were true feelings of my own. I wish I had known earlier. Having sex with your boyfriend while visualizing Jo from *The Facts of Life* can be unnerving if you think there's only gay and straight.

So please don't judge me because I'm married. Although I've never made love to a woman I've loved some. Maybe you feel you're "more bi" than I am. That's your right. Just remember that there are many different shades of the same color.

Color me Married, Happy and Bisexual,

Marblehead, MA.

[REDACTED]

Hi!

My name is [REDACTED] I had the delightful experience of being in a work shop with Rebecca Kaplan in Michigan this past August. She mentioned the Boston Bisexual Women's Network, and so I am writing since I am a feminist bisexual woman planning to move to the Framingham area.

My son Morgan (6) and I (38) want to move so that Morgan can go to the Sudbury Valley School in Framingham. I am writing to you in hopes of networking with other women/families who could help ease our way by offering a room or two in their homes for a few (or several) months in exchange for help in the home, etc. until we can get established. I'd like to connect and communicate with any/all women that feel inspired to write about the possibilities, including housing, employment, resources, etc.

Thank you so much.

[REDACTED] and Morgan Smith,
75 1/2 Alida Street Ashland, OR 97520. Phone
(503) 482-7732

Speak Out!

Write to your newsletter! Send us your letters, poetry, opinions, questions, essays, art, jokes, praise, criticism, news clippings . . .

▼

BiWomen

BBWN

P.O. Box 639

Cambridge, MA
02140



OK, so why was the last newsletter so late?

Well, the printer made a mistake. We asked for 750 copies, but they only printed 75. We were forced to cancel our scheduled stuffing and mailing volunteer night. Instead, a die-hard crew of Kathrine, Stephanie, Laura S. and Laura P. took the major amounts of extra time to do the job themselves. THANKS BE TO THEM!

TELEPHONE (617) 455-6189

BET MacARTHUR, MSW LICSW
PSYCHOTHERAPY & CONSULTATION
BOARD-CERTIFIED DIPLOMATE IN CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK



14 PLEASANT ST.
CENTRAL SQUARE
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

I've only just come to terms with my own

The History of the Stonewall Rebellion

During the last weekend of June, 1969, police and Alcoholic Beverage Control Board agents entered a gay bar—The Stonewall Inn, on Christopher Street in New York City. Allegedly there to look for violations of the alcohol control laws they made the usual homophobic comments and then, after checking identification, threw the patrons out of the bar, one by one. Instead of quietly slipping away into the night, as we had done for years, hustlers, drag queens, students and other patrons held their ground and fought back. Someone uprooted a parking meter and used it to barricade the door. The agents and police were trapped inside. They wracked the place and called in reinforcements. Their vehicles raced to the scene with lights glaring and sirens blaring. The crowd grew. Someone set a fire. More people came. For 3 days, people protested. And for the first time, after innumerable years of oppression, the chant, "GAY POWER" rang out.

This event has taken on a mythic significance. Many organizations proudly use Stonewall or Christopher Street in their names.

During the summer and autumn of 1969, five Gay Liberation Fronts sprang up in New York, Berkeley, Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Jose. By the end of 1979, three hundred Gay Liberation Fronts had been created.

The first demonstration in commemoration of the Stonewall Rebellion was held in New York in August of 1969. Marches were held in 1970 in New York and Los Angeles on the anniversary of the Uprising—and thus, a tradition was born. Since then, annual marches have been held in many cities in the U.S. and other countries. For many of us, our first march was a turning point in our lives. We came out, we drew strength from those around us, we felt pride in our community.

On October 12, 1985, at the annual conference of the

(continues on next page)

Stonewall, from page 1

We're disappointed but also excited about the progress that bisexuals have made! The North Americans that carried the torch were NOT bisexual! This is a victory in its own right!

What happens next? A domestic planning committee has been formed called the National (American) Steering Committee (NSC) to coordinate the effort. The NSC has decided to make all outreach inclusive of bisexuals and transgendered people despite the name. And already transgendered and bisexual people are taking on leadership roles.

Who cares about the full title of the march? The media never got the full name of the MOW93 correct anyway! It's more important that EVENTS are inclusive, because BISEXUALS WILL BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED FROM START TO FINISH!

Now the big 8 month push begins. What you can do now.

1. Get involved with your local Stonewall 25 committee. Call the national office at 212-626-6925 to find out how to contact your local organization.

2. Think locally, act nationally! Many regions have unfilled seats on the National Steering Committee. The mid-west states in particular need to fill their seats or lose their votes! Contact Brenda Howard (after 3pm, as late as 4am east coast time) or the national office.

3. If you're in a position to take an extended leave from work, consider spending a month or two in NYC volunteering at the Stonewall 25 office. Positions are available in everything from merchandising to the press office.

4. Donate Money to help BiNet USA organize on the national level. Our national bi reps are spending their own money to go to coordinating meetings which happen all over the country. Estimated cost of work is \$3,600 for cost of plane tickets, phone bills, printing, etc. All donations are tax deductible. ECBN has agreed to accept contributions on behalf of BiNet and our reps. Make checks payable to ECBN and write "Stonewall Fund" on the memo line. Mail to ECBN, PO Box 639, Cambridge, MA 01240.

What's happening with the Fri/Sat Bi Conference as part of the celebration?

It was discussed at the BiNet meeting and the Conference Celebrating Bisexuality in DC that we really wanted to have a conference, separate from, and addition to the one-day BiNet USA business meeting. The conference may not happen, however, at least not in its two-day form, unless more organizers come forward to help. Efrain Gonzalez is heading up the effort. You can reach him at 718-499-5517 or 212-459-4784.

Send in your important Bi events to the global Stonewall calendar.

Bisexual Pride T-Shirts!!

For just \$15 (or \$14 if you come to the Bi Office) you get a Bisexual Pride t-shirt in black or deep purple sizes small to xx-large.

Please indicate size and color with order. Make check out to BBWN and send to:

BBWN, attn. **Stephanie/T-shirts**,
95 Berkeley St., Suite 613, Boston,
MA 02116.

We've ordered less than 200, so order NOW!

What's an important bi event? Any event you're planning between now and June that's of regional and national interest. Why should you let the Global Calendar know? Because it's a calendar of all Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Events for 93-94, and we need bisexual related events listed so people can find out about our communities and movement. Send your event's date, name, city, contact info to Tom Hom, Fax 718-436-1425. Or e-mail him at tiger.tom@TBR.COM or 718-951-8256 modems only.

— contributed by **Stephanie**

ILGA needs help with its Bisexual track

The 16th Annual International Lesbian/Gay Association (ILGA) World Conference wants to have a bi track as part of its programming. However, they need our help. Contact ILGA c/o Lesbian/Gay Community Services Center, 208 W 13th St, NY, NY 10011, tel # 212-620-7310.

BiNet USA info:

For more information and membership information about BiNet call you Northeast regional representatives Stephanie Berger 617-666-3149 or Laura Marina Perez 617-282-3537 or write BiNet USA, PO box 7327, Langley Park, MD 20787. As a member of BiNet USA you will receive the BiNet News quarterly national newsletter, link with other bisexual activists in your region and globally, get on the mailing list for Stonewall 94 Bisexual Events and you'll support bisexual activism with your contribution. There is a sliding scale membership. Annual dues are Indiv/household memberships = \$1 per \$1,000 yearly income. Or affiliate group memberships = \$25 - \$100 per year.

Stephanie and Laura are planning a Northeast regional BiNet meeting sometime in April, hopefully in the Vermont area. Stay tuned for more information.

— contributed by **Stephanie**

Coming Soon . . .

Gay Games IV and Cultural Festival

June 18-25, 1994

WHAT ARE THE GAMES?

Gay Games IV is an international, Olympic-style athletic and cultural festival open to all. The theme and spirit is Unity, and Games organizers are committed to including everyone. All are welcome, people of all ages, colors, abilities, sexual orientation and HIV status. Athletes and artists of all skill levels can participate because winning at the Gay Games means doing one's personal best. The purpose of Gay Games is to enhance the dignity, pride, and self-respect of lesbians and gay men everywhere.

Gay Games IV and Cultural Festival coincides with *Stonewall 25*, a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in 1969, acknowledged as the birth of the modern lesbian and gay movement. *Stonewall 25* will take place June 26, the day after the Gay Games Closing Ceremonies. In addition, the international Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) will be holding its annual international conference in New York, also coinciding with the Games. These events will bring together the largest gathering of lesbians, gay men, and their friends in one of the world's most exciting cities. From June 18-25, 1994, Gay Games IV and Cultural Festival expects to welcome a record 15,000 athletes and thousands of cultural participants from more than 40 countries, plus an unprecedented 500,000 spectators.

The Federation of Gay Games is the direct outgrowth of San Francisco Arts and Athletics, the group Dr. Tom Waddell founded to create and produce Gay Games I and II. The Federation has a 45-member all volunteer Board of Directors, which includes sport and cultural leaders from seven nations. The Federation is dedicated to making sure the Gay Games continue in strict conformance with the original principles and concepts of the Games, emphasizing participation over winning, in an environment of inclusion and acceptance.

For more information about local organizing for Gay Games IV, contact Team Boston at (617) 536-1561. ▼



Bi•Women P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140

Change of Leadership at the NGLTF

On November 1, Peri Jude Radecic became director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). This appointment is of special interest to bisexual activists, as Peri Jude has a history of being bi-supportive and inclusive.

The NGLTF is the country's oldest national gay and lesbian advocacy organization and serves as the grass-roots organizing arm of the lesbian and gay movement. NGLTF is currently undertaking an organizational expansion that is carefully gauged to refocus the energies of the Task Force on key issues such as state and local civil rights organizing, developing a pro-active health care agenda, and fighting the anti-gay activities of the Far Right, along with NGLTF's current anti-violence and privacy programs. "The Task Force, while strengthening activism on a state and local level, will continue to set the tone and pace of a national agenda for securing full equality for lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals," said Radecic.

- submitted by Robyn Ochs ▼

Study Released on Anti-Gay Efforts

People for the American Way, a 300,000-member nonpartisan constitutional liberties organization, released a report on Nov. 3 on anti-gay efforts in states and localities around the country. The report, entitled "Hostile Climate: A State-by-State Report on Anti-Gay Activity," was released to the press one day after three local jurisdictions — Cincinnati, Ohio; Lewiston, Maine; and Portsmouth, New Hampshire — voted against discrimination protection for lesbian, gay and bisexual citizens by wide margins.

The People for the American Way report can be obtained through the Human Rights Campaign Fund's Communications Department by calling 202-467-4999, or writing The Human Rights Campaign Fund 1012 14th Street, NW Suite 607 Washington, DC 20005; or phone (202) 628-4160, fax: (202) 347-5323. ▼

Media Task Force Taking Shape

The new Media Task force had their first meeting on Saturday, November 20. It was very successful—and heated, according to at least one account. The next meeting, scheduled for Dec. 19 (see calendar) is planned to address the following: "stickering and flyering" campaign; articles targeted for the Phoenix and other papers; organizing an anti-hate forum in response to the right-wing "Gay Rights/Special Rights" campaign/video; and general continuing discussions about media and outreach. ▼

▼
(continued from preceding page)

International Association of Lesbian and Gay Pride Coordinators, Morris Kight, a member of the Christopher Street West/ Los Angeles delegation, proposed that the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising be observed with the first international lesbian/ gay pride celebration. He proposed a massive presence of our international community in New York during June of 1994.

Since then, the developing concept of Stonewall 25 has met with enthusiastic response at Pride Coordinators conferences in Vancouver, Minneapolis and Boston, and at International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) conferences in Stockholm and in Paris, where delegates discussed and formulated the name and demands of the International March.

Several preliminary meetings have already taken place. A commitment was made to develop a decision-making process that includes international participation. A goal was set to strive for gender parity and 50% representation of People of Color on decision-making bodies. We are also committed to adequate representation of the disabled, bisexual seniors, youth—indeed, the entirety of the grand mosaic that comprises our community.

There will be a vast array of other activities besides the International March and Rally. Events in New York will include Gay Games IV, the annual ILGA conference, the Stonewall History Project, a mass concert by the Lesbian/ Gay Bands of America and a mass Worship Service organized by the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. There will also be athletic, cultural educational, health-related, political and religious/spiritual/humanist events organized by lesbian/gay/bisexual communities around the world.

For more information, write or call: Stonewall 25, Attn: Conference Committee, 208 W. 13th St., New York, NY, 10011-7799 or phone: 718/ 499-8984

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INCEST SURVIVORS'
THINKTANK
A Discussion Group
on Feminist and
Cultural Theories
and Political
Strategies

This monthly drop-in group will give survivors of incest and child sexual abuse an opportunity to reflect about the cultural context of incest, to debate feminist theories on child sexual abuse, and to develop strategies for political change. This is an opportunity to gain social support for and to share our varied intellectual contributions to an understanding of child sexual abuse. The format will encourage discussions on how to have a voice in public policies and legislative proposals and how to ensure that such proposals represent the various priorities of diverse ethnic and racial groups and economic classes.

This is not a therapy group. Survivors of incest and sexual abuse, however, will function as facilitators.

Winter 1993-94
Schedule
Wednesday, December 1
Rebuilding Relationships

Wednesday, January 5
Social Responsibility of/for
Offenders

The group begins
promptly at 7:15 p.m. and
the discussion ends at 9:15
p.m. Please be on time.

For more information
call: The Woman's Center,
46 Pleasant Street, Cam-
bridge, MA 02139
phone: (617) 354-8807

Ready for 1994, from page 1

above, and by stressing the need for the network as well as the meeting to uphold standards of democracy (avoiding the hierarchy of designated moderator, queen, secretary, etc.). Inevitably we discussed the problems of having no definite structure - but decided that "coordinators" might sometimes serve the needs of "officials" without having a ruling power of any kind. Hopefully, our sensitivity is evident! It was suggested that, while BBWN does not have officers, there are those volunteers who have taken more responsibility so that the network can operate. The group decided to form a rough list of those members, which follows:

- Keyholders to the Bisexual Resource Office: Ann, Jennifer, Stephanie, Robyn, Laura S., Laura P., and Kathleen
- Post Office box keyholders: Laura S. and Stephanie
- Robyn O. is the Treasurer for BBWN
- Ann G. coordinates the Intro Meetings for new members
- Stephanie handles bi-products such as T-shirts, but would like to give up this particular task
- Gail keeps & prints the mailing list
- Media listings are done by Stephanie

Sadly, BBWN lost two of its dedicated office secretaries, Ilta and Lori, who moved out of the state.

Once again, this is a rough list with first names only, which helped to clarify the current workings of the network and allowed us to go on with an hour or so of brainstorming for ideas which might help BBWN to accomplish better its statement of purpose (found at the beginning of each *Bi Women* issue), and which might make a good thing even better.

BBWN celebrates this autumn its 10th anniversary as the oldest bisexual women's network in the world of which we know. The following ideas & hopes are suggested by those present on October 28, with the honor of BBWN's past,

present, and future in mind. I will offer them also in a rough list.

1) A Procedure Manual — will be created to explain the workings of the network, from the bulk mailing of *BiWomen* to using the office answering machine. If any reader has knowledge on any particular subject here and would be willing to explain or offer notes to the book — Bravo! Please contact Kathrine at 738-5383.

2) A Phone Tree — will be designed with the names and numbers of only those who wish to be included, which will make the dissemination of information on events or meetings more effective. If you would like to be included on the phone list, please contact Julie at 566-6543.

3) A "Buddy System" — was suggested, in which more-established members would offer to "adopt" one or two newcomers to help them meet other members and to find the right areas of interest and participation. This was particularly suggested as a more direct way of communicating with newcomers who may feel confused by the lack of "officials," and would potentially help to lessen any unintentional clique-ish feelings that new members might encounter. A "welcoming committee" might be an alternative idea for this purpose.

4) A Brochure — to explain the history and workings (not in such detail as the manual) might help to initiate the newcomer as well.

The first two of these ideas have begun to take shape, though slowly, and there will be plenty of opportunity for participation. Before the nine stalwarts left for the evening, a date was set for November 9, to discuss the first two suggestions only.

November 9, at the Cambridge Women's Center, eight women met (five from the October 28, meeting and two long-time BBWN members, as well as one very enthusiastic newcomer, who has set herself the task of researching some sort of bisexual women's reading for some date in the future!). The meeting brought about an initial phone list, topics for the next few issues of *Bi Women*, and the setting of two additional dates for the accomplishment of the phone tree and procedure manual. The dates are Wednesday, December 15, and Wednesday, January 19, and the meetings will take place from 7:30 - 9:30 PM at the Women's Center in Cambridge at 46 Pleasant Street.

The meetings which were originally set with concern for the state of the network have brought about encouraging — and realistic — goals for approaching the next decade. All are welcome and heartily encouraged to come to the next meetings as well as all of the newsletter nights!

See related article on next page. 

NINA CARROLL, M.D.
OBSTETRICIAN / GYNECOLOGIST

WOMEN-CARE, INC.
180 MASS. AVE.
ARLINGTON, MA 02174

(617) 648-4221
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

What's up with these BBWN working meetings anyway?

by Stephanie Berger

Roughly 8 to 10 women have shown up for two different meetings to talk about the state of the women's network and begin a process of change. After 10 years of the network's existence all of us agreed BBWN is having some growing pains. We need to make some real structural changes in how we function and are perceived as an organization. I will not attempt to try and reconstruct our conversations (mainly because I don't type that quickly and I won't be able to accurately reconstruct everyone's feelings), but instead to let folks know some of what we're trying to do.

I can only ask that if you're interested in being part of these on-going conversations that you attend one of the next two working meetings scheduled for Wed., Dec. 15th and Wed., Jan. 19th, both will start at 7:30 and be held at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, (Central Square). This does not have to be a major time commitment... really. I believe information is power and the more people have it the more we can accomplish and the more we can be empowered personally and as an organization.

The creation of a PHONE TREE!

Many of us have felt at some time or another out of that inner circle of information - that we don't really know what's going on and everyone else does and besides everyone already knows each other - we wouldn't fit in; meetings spring up spontaneously; we don't hear about parties or brunches until after the fact, and decisions are seemingly made without us. As someone who has been an organizer of /with BBWN for over 5 years and as one who is interested on seeing BBWN grow, its important to acknowledge the validity and truth to these feelings and not to try and deny the disempowerment of feeling like an outsider in your own community. Whether these feelings are based in perceptions or structural problems within BBWN, the effects are still the same. We as an organization can no longer stand idle and then wonder why participation in BBWN is declining.

Part of the problem is communication. Not everything makes it into the newsletter or office phone line, not everyone has their name and number in an event organizers little black book in order to get information, not everyone knows how to even access this information that's already out there. Thus, the birth of the FIRST BBWN PHONE TREE.

What does is mean to be on the phone tree? You will be called whenever a BBWN spon-

sored or co-sponsored event happens. How do you get on the phone tree? All you have to do is check off - "Add me to the phone tree" on your renewal form. If you've already renewed either call the office (617) 338-9595 and leave a message or drop us a line. If you've already checked off to volunteer or are interested in social events you will be added to the phone tree. You will be called and told who to call and how the system works.

Will you have to make any calls? Yes, as part of the phone tree you will have to call the next person or persons on your branch of the tree. It's that easy.

What about privacy issues? Your name and number will not be given out to non-BBWN members, and (I would assume) only to the women on your branch or just the woman who calls you.

Also, if you're willing to be a branch leader please indicate so. A branch leader is just the woman who makes the first call to activate the tree, and confirms the last person on her branch got the message. Note: we're sort of new at this phone tree thang so if you have any expertise in this area please come to the Dec. 15th meeting.

The Creation of the HOW-TO Manual

When you've been doing something for a long time I think it's easy to takes it for granted all the different pieces and steps it takes to make that thing happen - whether it's having a brunch, organizing a night out dancing, a poetry reading, a political action or even a conference. Sometimes it's not as simple as "just do it". Witness the birth of the comprehensive everything-you-ever-wanted-to-know-about-putting-on-an-event and navigation-through-the-workings-of-BBWN manual. Kathrine Douthit is spearheading this immense but needed project with the help of many behind-the-scenes gals. This reference manual will be published in up-coming issues of *BiWomen*. This manual will include info on advertising, reserving space, requesting funds, access to the office and phones, accessing the phone tree, getting in touch with other women for organizing assistance and getting announcements into the newsletter. Sometimes it's as easy as one phone call. Watch for this beginning in the next newsletter.

The Buddy System

Another idea we're playing around with in order to break down the boundaries between new and old (those experienced in event organizing or having specific skills, and those who don't) is to establish a buddy system. This would take on several forms. You're new or newish and go to your first event - someone would greet you and help you get acquainted with folks and the network, be able to answer

Study Finds High Rate of Risky AIDS Behavior Among Lesbians

United Press International (10/19/93)

San Francisco—High rates of unsafe sex and intravenous drug abuse among gay and bisexual women place them at a significant risk for AIDS, according to two studies. The first study surveyed lesbians and bisexual women over age 16 in the San Francisco Bay area, and indicated that 1.2 percent were HIV-positive, a rate three times greater than for all women in the same age group in the city. Of the females questioned, 10.4 percent reported injecting drugs since 1978. In a second study of 483 gay and bisexual women, 47 percent of lesbians and 58 percent of bisexuals reported inconsistent use of condoms when having sex with a man. "Despite the lack of clear evidence of woman-to-woman transmission, the high rates of injection drug use and unsafe sexual behaviors with male and female partners suggests a potential for continued transmission of the AIDS virus," said Dr. George Lemp of the San Francisco Department of Public Health. Also, although the rates are currently low compared to other high-risk categories, Lemp said they will continue to rise given the levels of high-risk behavior in the population. "These studies suggest that targeted prevention programs should be expanded to address the needs of lesbians and bisexual women," interpreted study co-author Stephen Mills.



Working Meetings *continues on page 9*

LLEGO, from preceding page

b. "Bisexual and Gay Latino Men's Dialogue"

This workshop, facilitated by Miguel Ramirez and Chris Sandoval, was an opportunity for bisexual Latino men and gay Latino men to discuss their similarities and differences, to share hopes and fears and to build alliances and coalitions.

Sunday, October 10

c. "Lesbian and Gay Latinas/os Working with Bisexual Latinas/os"

The purpose of this workshop was to break down the myths around and about bisexuals and to recognize and understand the need to include bisexuals in the lesbian, gay and bisexual Latinas/o communities/movement. Antoinette Gonzalez, Hank Tavera and I were to facilitate, however, for many reasons we may never know but can surely guess, no one besides Antoinette's partner attended! Next time, right?

d. "Bisexual Latinas and Lesbianas Dialogue"

This was by far my most favorite workshop! <<Sin dolor, no podemos cambiar y crecer.>> We cannot change and grow without pain. The purpose of this workshop, similar to the guy's dialogue, was to share our fears and hopes and to get to the bottom of the conflict and crap that keeps us apart as <<mujeres>>. We decided to skip the structured format proposed and basically go back and forth about what had bothered us in the past in our experiences with bisexual women or lesbians. It was a heated discussion between eight powerful and beautiful Latinas, Chicanas, Lesbianas and Bisexuales.

4. Last and surely not least, the Bisexual Caucus (Antoinette Gonzalez and I) got together to form an action plan.

By the end of December, we will:

- Present three proposals to National LLEGO to:
 - Change the By-Laws to change the name of the organization include Bisexual.
 - Change the By-Laws to revise the purpose of LLEGO to include Bisexuals.
 - Include a seat on the Board to include an "out" Bisexual

b. Present along with the above proposals, a written rationale and explanation for the changes.

c. Present recommendations to include the transgender communities in a similar fashion.

Our on-going tasks will be:

a. To develop a Bisexual Latina/o Network thru a mailing list, outreach, etc.

b. To develop a network with the transgender communities to encourage political changes.

For more information about LLEGO, write: National LLEGO, P.O. Box 44483, Washington, DC 20026, or call (202) 544-0092, or fax (202) 544-2228. ▽



Working Meetings, from page 7

questions, and help you get plugged into what YOU want to be doing. Even if that means only getting a call every once in a while about an event.

Another form this would take is – say you want to organize an event/evening out but you've never done it before and are a little nervous about doing it alone, or you're interested in learning about newsletter design but you don't know where to begin. You could be paired up with a bi woman in the community who is currently doing this type of work or has the experience. This would encourage a more collaborative atmosphere, share our skills, have more of us rather than less making decisions and with more woman involved there would be less chance for burn out and the subsequent periods of inactivity of BBWN.

BBWN is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, bisexual volunteer organization in the world. As we celebrate our 10th Birthday and Stonewall 25 there is incredible potential for change. I know we talk about many of these issues every year. But this time we DOING something about it. Come join us! ▽

Call For Papers

Daughters of the Sisterhood
An Anthology of Writings
by Young Feminists and
Womanists

For those of us who were in
our infancy when Sister-
hood is Powerful was pub-
lished • An anthology of
writings by women age 30
and under • Analysis, ar-

articles, poetry documents of
actions, photos and other
non-fiction writing • Ad-
dressing new issues in
women's movements • Ex-
amining the change (or lack
of change) in issues over
the past 25 years • Differ-
ences in the perspectives of
older and younger activists
in the women's movement

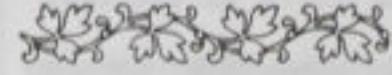
• How growing up with
knowledge of an existing
women's movement (and
the existence of specific re-
sources: feminist books,
festivals, bookstores, orga-
nizations, etc.) shaped our
experiences • What issues
are currently priority for
young women?

I will strive to include
works from perspectives
which have historically
been denied a voice. Assis-
tance will be available in
translation/transcription
where necessary. Please
send typed, double-spaced
manuscripts if possible. In
general, submissions should
be no longer than ten
pages. (Manuscripts will not
be returned.) Please include
a description of the
author(s) with your manu-
script, along with an ad-
dress and phone number.

The editor, Rebecca
Kaplan, is a 22-year old
radical activist and writer,
currently in graduate school
studying Urban-Social

Policy, who was born the
same time that Sisterhood is
Powerful was published.
Deadline for manuscripts is
December 31st, 1993.

Please send manuscripts
and correspondence to:
Daughters of the Sister-
hood, c/o Rebecca Kaplan,
P.O. Box 441460, West
Somerville, MA, 02144.
Phone: (617)776-7163



All Bi, Myself • Think Globally, Act Locally"



by Kathrine Douthit

Bisexual Movement Mainstay Changes Name and Broadens Mission

The new Bisexual Resources Center mission statement is:

The goals of the Bisexual Resource Center (BRC) are affirmation and empowerment, accessibility and enrichment, recognition and dignity for all bisexual people.

BRC accomplishes these goals through funding, technical assistance, and program development (avoiding duplication of the efforts of existing organizations) at the grassroots, regional (Greater Boston and BiNet NorthEast), national, and international levels.

BRC's general areas of work are:

- + Educate, disseminate information, and promote research about bisexuality and bisexual people.
- + Support local organizing.
- + Sponsor and support conferences, events, and educational programs.
- + Provide resources and referrals to support individuals and projects.

Advertise in BiWomen!

For only \$10 per issue, your message will reach over 700 subscribers. Save \$5 and advertise in three issues for \$25.

Send your business-card sized ad or personal ad (50 words or less) and a check (to BBWN) to:

BiWomen, c/o BBWN, P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140

Such a deal!

The East Coast Bisexual Network changed its name to the Bisexual Resource Center and reformulated its mission to serve as a global resource center on bisexuality.

Growing out of a small group formed in 1983, BRC has put on numerous conferences, retreats and educational programs; started the largest archives on the bisexual movement, produced the first safer sex pamphlet specifically for bisexual people; become the first tax-exempt bisexual organization in the United States; started an electronic bulletin board named "BiAct-L" on Internet for Bisexual activists; provided information and referral services; and contributed financial and technical assistance and educational literature to the growth of the modern Bi and LesBiGay movements.

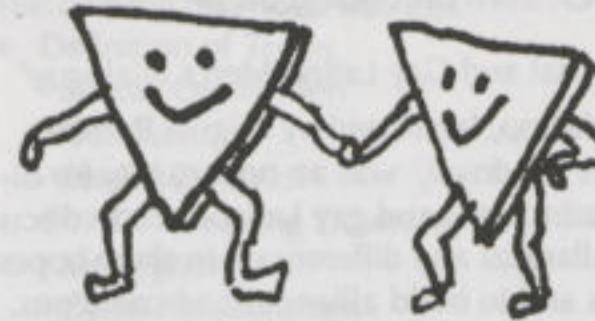
Board member Laura Perez remarked, "We have grown from our original mission from organizing regional conferences and helping organize local communities on the East Coast of the United States, to providing information about bisexuality around the world."

As stated in the new mission statement, "BRC's goals are affirmation and empowerment, accessibility and enrichment, recognition and dignity for all bisexual people." The BRC will continue existing programs such as the global Bisexual Archives, the International Directory of Bisexual Groups, the bisexual pamphlet series, the Bisexual Resource Office, the Bisexual Speaker's Bureau, and the Bisexual Resource List.

According to Alan Hamilton, "BiNet USA has taken responsibility for much of what used to be BRC's regional organizing role, which led to the name change." BiNet USA is a grassroots organization that sponsors national and regional Bi conferences and advocates for the concerns of Bisexual people throughout the United States.

"Due to the work of primarily three people, Woody Glen, Robyn Ochs, and Alan Hamilton, the BRC has grown into the largest and most prolific resource center for information on bisexuality in the world," reported board member Michael Beer.

Co-founder Woody Glen commented, "When we look behind the "firsts", "growths" and "foundings", we cannot forget the people we serve and the lives that we touch. May the BRC continue to serve to make a healthier world as it charts new waters." ▶



Bi Activists Speak at Fenway Helpline Training

by Laura Sachs

On November 6, 1993, Laura Perez, Woody Glenn, Laura Sachs and Eric Bloomquist presented a two-hour panel on Bisexuality to the volunteers for the Lesbian and Gay Helpline fall training. The L/G Helpline is an information and counseling helpline sponsored by the Fenway Community Health Center (FCHC). They sometimes get phone calls from people who have questions or concerns about bisexuality or who are newly out as bisexual and want info on how to connect with the bi community.

To help demystify and educate the volunteers about bisexuality, the East Coast Bisexual Network (now d.b.a. The Bisexual Resource Center) provides speakers for the Helpline trainings, which take place three times a year.

Laura, Woody, Laura and Eric each spoke briefly about their own experiences as bisexuals and the bi community, and then answered questions from the trainees. Discussion included oppression theory; monogamy and non-monogamy; heterosexual and homosexual privilege; are bisexuals really part of the lesbian/gay community; sexual identity formation (i.e., transitional, transitory and life-identified bisexuals); what the local bi community resources are; how to make appropriate referrals to the Resource Center; and especially the importance of providing a non-judgemental environment for a caller to ask questions exploring the range of human sexuality.

We welcome the opportunity to eradicate biphobia by speaking about our lives as bisexuals to the helpline volunteers, and we thank FCHC for having these training sessions.

The Bisexual Resource Center is looking to provide a diverse group of bisexual women and men to speak at the helpline trainings. If you are interested in speaking, or would like to have speakers present a workshop to your organization, call the Center at (617) 338-9595 and leave a message for Laura Sachs.

If you are interested in training to become a helpline volunteer, contact Jennifer Ross of FCHC at (617) 267-0849. ▶

CALENDAR, from page 12

ways to make the bisexual community more visible in the gay and straight press and to make sure all bi people in the Boston area find out about us. (See article on page 5 for more info.)

December 21 • Tuesday

Bisexual Vampires at the Brattle Theater. 6pm, *Blood and Roses*, a French film directed by Roger Vadim; 7:30pm, *The Hunger*, with Susan Sarandon, David Bowie and Catherine Deneuve. Harvard Square, Cambridge.

December 22 • Wednesday

Bisexual Resource Center (formerly ECBN) board meeting. at the Bi Office. Info: (617) 338-9595.

December 31 • Friday

Amethyst Women's New Year's Eve Dance, at Old Cambridge Baptist Church, for lesbians and their women friends. An alcohol-, drug- & smoke-free event. Blues, hip hop, country, pop, motown, rock, big band, techno. 9pm-1am, tix at door \$8. Info: 337-6210.

January 2 • Sunday

First Sunday Bi Brunch. 1pm at Christopher's, 1920 Mass. Ave., Porter Square, Cambridge. Diagonally across the street from the Porter T stop on the Red Line.

Bi Space. See Dec. 5.



January 6 • Thursday

Bisexual Writers Group. See Dec. 2.

January 9 • Saturday

BBWN Potluck Brunch, noon-3pm, hosted by Ann in Somerville. Call Ann at 628-1866 for directions.



January 12 • Wednesday

BBWN Introductory Meeting. A safe place for women to connect with the bi community. 7:30-9pm at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., (Central Sq.), Cambridge. Info: (617) 354-8807.

January 13-15 • Thursday-Saturday

Black Women in the Academy: Defending Our Name: 1894-1994. National Conference, MIT, Radcliffe College. Keynotes: Lani Guinier, Johnnetta Cole, Angela Davis. Info: (617) 253-8844.

January 14 • Friday

BiWomen submissions deadline for the February/March issue!



January 15 • Saturday

Monthly Bi Brunch. 11am at the Black Crow Caffé, 2 Perkins St., Jamaica Plain. By car: Perkins runs between Centre and Huntington. By bus: Route 39 (runs from Back Bay to Forest Hills). Get off at Perkins and So. Huntington, walk left one block up Perkins. By MBTA: Green Line (E branch) to Heath St., walk 1/2 mi. along Huntington towards JP. Left on Perkins one block.

Video Party, 2pm. After the brunch, we will hang out and watch videos. Call Eric at (617) 730-3774 for directions and to offer video suggestions.

January 17 • Monday

BiWomen volunteer night. Type articles for the newsletter, open the mail, make phone calls. **REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED!!** (Feel free to bring some, too...) Please come! 7-9pm at the Bi Office. Info: (617) 338-9595.

January 18 • Tuesday

Biversity Planning Meeting. Biversity is the mixed-gender, multi-cultural bisexual network of Greater Boston. 7-9pm at the Bi Office.

January 19 • Wednesday

BBWN Working Meeting. Continue to develop our important new programs (procedure manual, phone tree, etc.) See Dec. 15.

January 20 • Thursday

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Speakers Bureau Meeting. See Dec. 16. Topic: Election of New Officers.

January 26 • Wednesday

Bisexual Resource Center (formerly ECBN) board meeting. 95 Berkeley Street, 6th floor. Info: (617) 338-9595.

January 31 • Monday

BBWN newsletter stuffing volunteer night. Free anecdotes, gossip, unsolicited advice, jokes, fun! Help us get the newsletter out to those who need it. 7-9pm at the Bi Office. Info: (617) 338-9595.



February 4-6 • Friday-Sunday

Full Circle of Women. A radically different, politically incorrect exploration of what it means to be a woman. For women-identified individuals living their lives as women-transgendered, non-transgendered, transsexual (preoperative and post-operative), and intersex people living as women. Participation by women who identify as lesbian, bisexual, heterosexual, asexual or other-sexual is encouraged. At the Essex Conference Center and Retreat in Essex, Mass. \$250 includes accommodations, all meals, use of hot tub and all workshops. Info: Janis Walworth, P.O. Box 52, Ashby, MA 01431; phone (508) 386-7737.

February 11-13 • Friday-Sunday

Northwest Regional Bisexual Conference, sponsored by BiNet Oregon and BiNet Northwest. Info: BiNet Oregon, P.O. Box 8232, Portland, OR 97207. Phone: (503) 236-4941.

Looking Ahead ...

June 17-25 • Friday-Saturday
Gay Games IV, New York City.

June 23 • Thursday
BiNet Annual Meeting, New York City.

June 24-25 • Friday-Saturday
International Bisexual Conference, New York City.

June 26 • Sunday
Stonewall 25: International March on the United Nations to Affirm the Human Rights of Lesbian and Gay People, New York City.

November 17-20
InQueery/InTheory/InDeed: Sixth North American Conference on Lesbian, Gay, and BISEXUAL Studies, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

Ongoing Events

First Mondays:

Support Group for Anti-Racist White Women, 6:30-8:30pm at the Women's Theological Center, 140 Clarendon St., 6th fl., Boston. No charge, donation requested. Info: (617) 536-8782.

Tuesdays:

Bisexual Women's Rap Group, 7:30pm-9:30pm at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Central Square, Cambridge. All women welcome. Info: (617) 354-8807.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Freedom Trail Band

Rehearsals. Concert and marching band, no auditions. 7:30-9:30pm. Location and info: Kathy (617) 236-5978.

Wednesdays:

Say It, Sister! radio show on WMBR 88.1 FM (first on your FM dial!). 7:30-8:30pm. Info and topics: (617) 253-8810.

First and Third Tuesdays:

Bisexual Issues Rap Group at the New Haven Women's Center, 614 Orange St., (corner Bishop) New Haven, Conn. Please call to specify wheelchair access or ASL interpreting requirements. Voice (203) 776-2658, TTY and voice (203) 397-2381.

Saturdays:

Lavender Country Dance Group (Formerly NEGAL), 8-11pm, beginners lesson 7:30. All dances smoke- and alcohol-free. Open to all gays, lesbians, bisexuals and their friends. First Church of Jamaica Plain, corner Centre and Eliot Sts., JP. On MBTA Green and Orange lines. \$5. Info: Janet, (617) 522-2216.

The Bi Office

is the Bisexual Resource Office, 95 Berkeley Street, Suite 613, Boston. (617) 338-9595

For ongoing events, see page 11.

SUBSCRIBE!

CALENDAR

December 2 • Thursday

Bisexual Writers Group. Open to all bisexual writers, whether published or not. Attendees are invited to read their material, contribute constructive criticism, bring information on publications soliciting material, and share tips on writing in general. 7-9pm at the Bi Office.

December 5 • Sunday

First Sunday Bi Brunch. Biversity is adding a Sunday Brunch to its calendar for two months to see how it works out. At 1pm at Capucino's, 1812 Mass. Ave., Cambridge. A very short walk from the Porter Square stop on the Red Line. Buffet, around \$10.

Bi Space. A friendly discussion space to meet other bisexuals and talk about bisexual issues. 7-9pm at the Bi Office. \$2 donation is requested to help pay for rental of the space.

Support the Boston Bisexual Women's Network – and help us keep the newsletter alive!

Subscribe to BiWomen!

To start a new subscription or renew your current one, fill out the form below.

Name _____

Address _____

New Renewal

Sliding scale (check one):

\$0-20 (pay what you can) _____

\$20-30 (suggested) _____

\$30-100 _____

Send this form along with your check to:

BBWN
P.O. Box 639
Cambridge, MA 02140

December 6 • Monday

Bi Artists group forming, for bi artists of any kind. Meet, talk, do projects together, whatever develops. 7:30pm at the Bi Office.

December 7 • Tuesday

Bisexual Vampires at the Brattle Theater. 6pm, *A Lust for Vampire*; 7:40pm, *The Vampire Lovers*. Both are English films with bisexual women vampires. Harvard Square, Cambridge.



December 11 • Saturday

BBWN Potluck Brunch, at noon, hosted by Julie and Kathrine. Spend a frosty morning sipping cider and roasting chestnuts. Five minutes from Coolidge Corner. Call Kathrine at 738-5383, or Julie at (617) 566-6543 for directions.

December 14 • Tuesday

Bisexual Vampires at the Brattle Theater. 6pm, *The Velvet Vampire*, a tongue-in-cheek lesbian feminist vampire story. 7:40pm, *Daughters of Darkness*, a Belgian film alleged to have a bisexual character. Harvard Square, Cambridge.

December 15 • Wednesday

BBWN working meeting. Follow up on new and exciting projects: phone tree, procedural manual, buddy system. (See related story pages 1 and 7.) 7:30-9:30pm at the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street (near Central Square), Cambridge, Mass.

December 16 • Thursday

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Speakers Bureau Meeting. 8pm at the Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston Street, on the third floor, above the Small Planet Bar and Grill (formerly the Back Bay Bistro) in Copley Square. The Community Church is wheelchair accessible and is located near the Copley Green Line MBTA stop. The meeting is free and open to the public. Topic: *Home for the Holidays*. The general Bureau meeting begins at 6:45 p.m. with the program starting at 8:00 p.m. Info: (617) 354-0133.

December 18 • Saturday

Monthly Bi Brunch. Meet at 11am at Johnny D's in Davis Square on Holland St. in Somerville. Nearest T stop is Davis Square on the Red Line.



Cookies, Cuddling and Cider at Craig and Sharla's. Come one, come all!! A soft, warm, cuddly afternoon to celebrate the diversities of our holiday traditions. Feel free to bring stories, poems, games, and anything appropriate for an afternoon of warm cuddles in winter with friends. Info: (617) 388-9220.



December 19 • Sunday

Bi Media Task Force. At the Bi Office, 1pm. This will be a follow-up to the highly successful meeting of November 20th. The Task Force is developing and organizing

CALENDAR continues on page 11